

THE GATEWAY

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Students march on Legislature to fight fee imposition



DAN MCKECHNIE

MARCHING WITH A MESSAGE Students descended on the Legislature last Thursday, attempting to make the government understand the economic severity of Alberta's postsecondary situation.

Minister of Advanced Education and Technology says he can't rule out non-instructional fees without contradicting universities' right to self-govern

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
News Staff

Nearly 400 university students marched on the Alberta Legislature March 18 to show the government they're not happy about tuition and fee increases.

Students gathered outside of the U of A Students' Union Building at noon and marched across the High Level Bridge to the Legislature. The Council of Alberta University Students organized the march.

As students walked across the bridge waving flags and signs, drivers honked in solidarity. Students also chanted slogans such as "5-5-0, we say no," in response to the possible \$550 Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Security fee that may receive Board of Governors approval on Friday.

SU Vice President (External) and chair of CAUS Beverly Eastham said that it was important for students to make their voices heard.

"I think this is a really awesome opportunity for students to show their concerns in a very visible way and just really show that we're engaged citizens in Alberta. We care about our

future and the future of all the young Albertans who are hoping to have a postsecondary education."

U of A SU President Zach Fentiman was pleased with the amount of students who marched and said he thinks it sent a message.

"I think it's time to stand up and let them know that we can't handle this anymore. We graduate university with thousands and thousands of dollars of debt."

AMANDA ZOTEK
U OF C STUDENT

"I think it's important to let this government know that investing in post-secondary education is important, and I think we accomplished that today. It was pretty exciting."

Megan Schaub, holding a sign that

read "Between bullies and institutions, somebody's always stealing my lunch money," said that the \$550 fee "feels just as unjust."

Some groups present at the march included the Student Worker Action Group and the Campus NDP group. U of A students were also joined near the Legislature by students from the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge, who bussed up to Edmonton for the march.

U of C student Amanda Zotek said that student debt is a huge problem that needs to be addressed.

"It's time to stand up and let them know that we can't handle this anymore. We graduate university with thousands and thousands of dollars of debt."

Eastham and other student leaders from CAUS addressed the crowd from the steps of the Legislature once the group had assembled outside. She emphasized the importance of this march on the government's decision.

"I'm pleased to tell you that I think the activism that students have shown and the interest in the issues that are affecting them is having an effect," she said.

PLEASE SEE **MARCH** ♦ PAGE 3

Council, GFC reps elected

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor

Students went to the polls again on March 18 and 19 to vote on which councillors will represent their faculty on Students' Council and the General Faculties Council for 2010/11.

Compared to the 21.5 per cent voter turnout for the Students' Union Executive and referendum votes, the 6.1 per cent this election raised concerns of student disinterest in the process, something Chief Returning Officer Jennifer Huygen would like to see change.

"One of the things I'll be recommending to Council at the end of my tenure is putting forward a value shift where we see councillor and GFC elections receive equal if not greater attention," she said. "The function they do is so important, and it's not widely recognized or communicated to the student body."

One unique part of this year's election was the addition of a candidate slate, where six Arts candidates grouped together under the banner of Students United for Progressive Action. The group swept all six of the

available seats.

"The biggest issue I ran into [...] on the campaign trail was people not knowing what a students' councillor is," said Joel French, an elected SUPA councillor. "We're going to create more awareness about student politics, and at the same time, we're also getting people's opinion on the issues."

Huygen noted how the slate's victory could set a trend.

"[Slates] just haven't been widely used in the past, and with [SUPA's] success, whether it was name recognition, how they marketed their ideas a lot, I think we might see people conjoining more," she said.

French hopes that his slate's ideals of transparency and engagement catch on so that students have more interest and trust in their government.

"The reason we're in Council is because of the students," he said. "We're there as representatives. We're not there as our own little club."

There weren't enough candidates for some faculties, leaving some spots vacant on both governing bodies. These will be filled by a by-election in September.



Party down

Bruce Cinnamon tears down the newly formed Alberta Party's unprincipled populism.

OPINION, PAGE 7



Party up

The Gateway follows a beer keg from production through distribution, from the brewery to the bar.

FEATURE, PAGE 10

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colophon

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contributors

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Local sex activist hosts group workshop

SIMON YACKULIC
News Staff

“Sometimes it’s just about moving our bodies differently. You don’t have to get out the donkey and trampoline; you can just make subtle changes.”

Last Wednesday, Ed Bailey, an Edmonton queer activist presented *Creative Sex — History, stories, tips and discussion* as part of an Alberta Public Interest Research Group sponsored lecture series entitled “Alt Sex Ed: Things You Wanted to Learn in Sex Ed But Never Did.” Bailey takes a humorous look at his sexual history while frequently calling members of the audience up to the front to assist him in several demonstrations — one involving a volunteer intimately cuddling a pillow with technique encouragement from Bailey and the audience.

Jess Warren, APIRG’s outreach coordinator, introduced the presentation and explained why APIRG was backing the series.

“Basically, a group of people in Edmonton here got together and talked about the idea of running a series of workshops and events, and [decided to] educate people around sex and sexuality, gender, things like that, in a way that you don’t often get a chance to experience,” Warren said.

“The way our school system sets it out is pretty sub-standard. You don’t get a chance to discuss and experience this kind of subject a lot.”

When given the chance, the audience was keen to discuss different aspects of sexuality that Bailey raised. One audience member raised discus-



DAN MCKECHNIE

LOOK INTO MY EYES Bailey emphasized communication for a healthy sex life.

sion on the “campsite rule” of leaving a less-experienced partner better off and more knowledgeable after a relationship — akin to the backpacker’s rule of cleaning up a campsite when backpacking and leaving it “better than you found it.”

“Be creative with the people you love, focus on communication and partnership,” Bailey concluded. “As a woman once said; ‘I still think sex is

dirty. But now, I wouldn’t have it any other way.’ ”

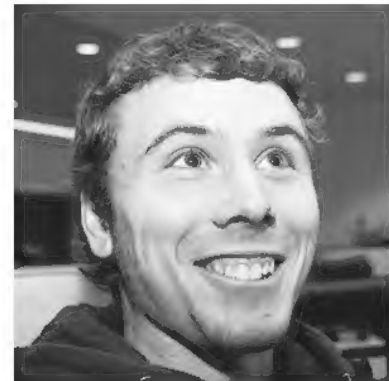
If you missed this event, but would like to learn more, there will be another lecture in this series Wednesday evening entitled “Millennial Ethical Sluthood,” where Janet Hardy — co-author of *The Ethical Slut* — will discuss polyamorous relationships.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Alexandria Eldridge and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, Danielle Smith, leader of the Wildrose Alliance, spoke at the U of A on Monday.

What other political leaders would provide enlightening commentary on our postsecondary situation?

Russell
Shuttleworth
ALES IIIAlicia Howery
Arts IVAndrew Simpson
Engineering IIITaimoore Bhatti
Arts II

Ralph Klein, because he’s blunt and he’d say what needs to be said. Plus, he might buy us beer.

I would say Stephen Colbert because he could think of a much wittier reason of why I should be here than I could possibly think of.

I’m in environmental engineering, so I wouldn’t mind having somebody environmental come.

It’s nice to have different perspectives, and even though I’m a leftie, I don’t think we should have all lefties coming to speak. It’s nice to hear different perspectives.



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Wildrose Alliance leader talks postsecondary at SUBstage



AARON YEO

WINDS OF CHANGE? Smith argued that the Conservative government feels entitled after being in power for 38 years.

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor

The Wildrose Alliance has been picking up momentum among the Alberta electorate and its leader Danielle Smith was on campus Monday afternoon to give her take on the provincial political climate.

Her talk, held on SUBstage, was hosted by the University of Alberta Conservative Association.

In recent polls, the Alliance has enjoyed at least the same level of support, and in some cases more, as the Progressive Conservative party, which has formed the government in the Legislature since 1971.

Smith made her case to students about why her party would be better suited to form the next government.

“Politics in Alberta have never mattered more than they do now,” Smith said. “When you’ve got a government that’s been in power for 40 years, an attitude of arrogance and entitlement sets in.

“We take the view people want to be engaged more than [in an election every four years],” she added later. “[Citizens] should feed into policy development processes.”

The audience had the chance to ask questions after Smith’s short opening.

A prominent topic was the Alliance position on postsecondary issues such as tuition.

“We don’t have a very well-defined policy in this area,” Smith admitted, noting that the party is currently soliciting input from Albertans to further develop their platform.

She cited her negative personal experience with the student loan system, and explained her party would like to focus on reforming that instead of drastically reducing or eliminating costs to students.

“There’s a lot we could do for debt forgiveness, [but] we want to be certain we don’t devalue the work of a university education,” Smith said. “Society does benefit by having university grads, but the individual also benefits from having a university degree.”

Another hot topic was Alberta’s oil resources’ impact on climate change.

“The position we see governments take right now is to propose the most costly bureaucratic schemes,” Smith said, citing carbon capture and cap and trade strategies.

She said she believes that “good will” on the parts of consumers and businesses will prioritize greener products, but environmental benefits don’t have to be created at the expense of the province’s economic strengths.

“If we value a universally funded public health care system, if we value universal action to education, if we value government paying for 65 per cent of postsecondary, the revenue from the oil sands is going to underwrite those costs,” she explained. “It’s going to generate a huge amount of resource revenue in Alberta over the next 25 to 35 years.”

In that vein, Smith also commended the government’s recent reconsideration of the royalty review structure, which saw the amount companies pay to the province for

resource development reduced.

“[They realized] where they made the biggest error was on conventional oil and gas, and they scared investment away,” she said.

On health care, the Alliance isn’t in favour of a two-tier American-style system, but Smith proposed more could be done to increase efficiency with private surgical centres like those that already exist for things like cataract surgery and joint replacement.

Though the Alliance prides itself on having a fiscally conservative platform, Smith was quick to differentiate that from other views typically associated with the right wing.

She noted there are differences within the party, but for her personally, she is pro-choice and isn’t opposed to gay marriage.

“I’m not a social conservative; I’m a libertarian. These types of views are for churches to discuss,” she said.

Smith noted that the plurality of a democracy does have its trade-offs, and her party is particularly concerned with issues like those faced by Ezra Levant and his *Western Standard* magazine, who went before the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission for publishing the controversial Danish cartoons depicting Muhammad, the prophet of Islam.

“[We’re] in a society where we believe in freedom of religion and freedom of speech and freedom of expression,” she said. “We believe [that] in a democracy you should be able to have a vigorous and robust debate; we all don’t have to agree, and there isn’t a charter right not to be offended.”

Minister sympathetic to student concerns

MARCH ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The decisions have not been made yet and that’s why we’re here today.”

CAUS vice-chair and U of C SU Vice President (External) Kay She also had students cheering against fee increases.

“These barriers obstruct access to our postsecondary education system in a province which already has one of the lowest postsecondary education enrolment rates in the country,” she said.

Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner said that he does understand student concerns, and is working to make education more accessible.

“[I have] a great deal of sympathy for what students are looking at in terms of affordability across the

board, and that’s what we’ve been looking at for the past year with the students’ association,” he said.

With regards to the non-instructional mandatory fees, Horner said that he has been looking at what regulations could look like if they were needed.

“If we need to have a regulation as it relates to ancillary fees, then we would request from [our colleagues] a draft of what that might look like. For a lot of this stuff there’s been no decision, so we’re dealing a lot in hypothetical right now.”

Horner added that eliminating non-instructional fees is not feasible, because students do receive non-instructional benefits from their institutions.

“All of the institutions charge cost-recoverable fees to their students and

I think we wouldn’t want to take that governance ability away from the board [of governors].”

Horner didn’t say when the decisions on market modifier proposals would be made, but did defend the government, saying that the proposals were brought forward at the request of the institutions.

“We also made a commitment to both the student bodies and the institutions that if we made an error when we instituted the freeze, we’re willing to look at it. But we didn’t request it — that’s something that was brought forward from the institutions.”

The U of A Board of Governors will meet on March 26 to consider the budget, at which time they could approve the \$550 CoSSS fee.

THE GATEWAY

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“Awfully Escher” photo by Indy Randhawa

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gateway student journalism society

Engineering grad gives old toy new, precision spin

STEPHANIE REEVES
News Writer

The world of the yo-yo, for most, is a distant pastime for our generation's youth. Many, however, are unaware of the increasing popularity and growing subculture of the return-top, the legal name for the classic toy. Chris Mikulin is among the few who are attempting to bring it back.

In his last year of mechanical engineering at the University of Alberta, Chris Mikulin concluded that he was interested more in industrial design, product design, and art. Following graduation from the Faculty of Engineering in 2002, he took a job with an oil company doing down-hole tool design to drill into the earth to access oil and gas reserves, and stumbled into the world of return-top design "by accident."

"I got into return-topping and started collecting new return-tops [on a search for the] perfect return-top," Mikulin said.

One of his co-workers suggested that he make his own, so as a side hobby he made a batch of 50, and through that, Mikulin's company Caribou Lodge was started in 2006. Soon the business began to gain momentum from its increasing fan base and popularity.

"I wanted to create a company I would buy a [return-top] from," Mikulin said.

With aesthetics in mind, the majority of the aluminium return-tops use a technique called splash anodizing, which he began applying in 2007. Splash anodizing is process that is used on the aluminium tops that opens the pores of the metal to be filled with dye, which better adheres to the surface to prevent chipping or wear. Then



PETEYEE

TAKEN FOR A SPIN Mikulin performs tricks with one of his Caribou Lodge tops to show he's not just a precision builder.

a splash pattern is applied to give the return-tops their signature look.

"It was a big hit and now everyone is doing it," Mikulin concluded. "I put a lot of thought and detail into the design aesthetics, as well as, the engineering side of things. I want to make the return-top look really good, but also play really well."

"Designing a return-top isn't that complicated; it's bringing together the aesthetics and marketing that's the challenge."

The first return-top released was dubbed "Peak," which is offered in a variety of colours and features a picture of two mountain peaks. Now Caribou Lodge has expanded their lines; popular return-tops Bear vs. Man and Wooley

Marmot being among them. The inspiration for the unique naming scheme and the design of the product were to promote the "Canadian stereotype."

The majority of Caribou Lodge customer and fan base is from American customers, so this marketing tactic sets the company apart.

"I kind of wanted to play off of [this] stereotype and make a product that would be something people would recognize as a Canadian company," Mikulin said.

The increased level of interest in return-topping has improved worldwide demand for product. Caribou Lodge return-tops are being sought out by international vendors interested in his product and Caribou

Lodge is currently selling in parts of Asia, Europe, U.S.A., and Canada.

The underground subculture of return-topping is becoming more popular within North America and internationally.

"In the U.S. it's the biggest, but it's picking up a lot in Canada," Mikulin said. Caribou Lodge has started a return-top club in Edmonton and provides sponsorships to competitors to support more Canadian and Edmonton involvement in return-topping.

"I just love [return-topping] and to be part of the community, to help push the limits, innovate, and support talent."

To check out Mikulin's tops, visit www.cariboublog.com.

**from the
archives**

"Mr. Brownlee discounts claims of social credit"

March 22, 1935

Voicing a decided note of optimism and confidence in the future, Mr. J. E. Brownlee, former premier of the province, Friday addressed a meeting of Political Science Club, the subject being, "Problem of Economic Recovery." Mr. Brownlee outlined some of the difficulties facing statesmen today in their attempts at reconstruction.

"One of the primary problems of the times," said Mr. Brownlee, "is the need that people of this province be honestly and thoroughly informed of existing conditions." He went on to point out that many irresponsible people are trying to take advantage of the depression in order to get various radical schemes into operation.

The speaker said he believed that too much emphasis was being placed on the unemployment problem itself, while the fundamental causes were, as yet, unsolved. He then went on to consider the debt question, and voiced the fact that the only solution lay in some measure of debt repudiation.

From the Archives is a regular feature that explores the storied history of the Gateway, the University of Alberta's student newspaper since 1910. To read the full story and to explore our entire archive, check out thegatewayonline.ca/archives.

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Audiences will drive direction of media format shift: CBC editor

EVAN LEPAGE
The Concordian (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP) — Canadian media is on “the cusp of a change that has huge potential for news,” according to Jennifer McGuire, general manager and editor-in-chief of CBC news. And it’s the viewers and readers, even more than the always-evolving technology, who are behind the new media shift.

“This change is being driven first and foremost by the audience themselves; you lead, we adapt, or else,” McGuire told a room of journalism professors and students at Concordia University on March 12.

The media revolution, she said, is about people getting news “on their own terms, when they want it, how they want it, and not saying, ‘Wait, you have to come to us at a certain time for a prescribed meal.’”

The theme of giving the viewer a more participatory role through increased options, choices, and control was reiterated by McGuire throughout the night as she described the transition media organizations are going through to make to keep their audience.

“It is the proverbial paradigm shift — a new world where the viewers and readers have more control, where the concept of up-to-date and new and breaking news is taken to new levels,” she said. “For viewers, it allows them to make up their own minds about what’s in the news; and for news producers, it acts as a check and a balance. Transparency is now a virtue, and an essential part of the process.”

But new technology is also playing a profound role in the changes



NEWS ON THE RUN Technological advances, like this portable CBC iPhone application will soon change how customers consume their daily news.

to news media.

“Those of you who refuse to get BlackBerrys, iPhones, or Facebook accounts, or don’t listen to podcasts, surrender now. Resistance is futile,” McGuire joked with the audience. Online news is now second only to television as a news source, and is the fastest-growing source, according to McGuire.

There are obvious downsides to the shift, and she noted the loss of close to 800 jobs and a roughly \$170-million budget shortfall at the CBC in the last year. Still, she believes that the current changes offer more positive opportunities than negative ones.

It is a mixture of the viewers’ increased need for participation, advancing technology, and an increasingly diverse Canada that has motivated media corporations like the CBC to make drastic changes in various areas, she said. McGuire pointed out that the CBC has recently added new programs, changed the format of *The National*, changed their schedule, and will soon be modifying their website.

A 1988 graduate of Concordia’s journalism program, McGuire was also presented with a Distinguished Alumni Award by program director Mike Gasher.

Lobby group votes in support of creating national student advocacy group

EMMA GODMERE
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — The creation of a united, national student movement might not be that far off, if the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations has their way.

Student leaders from CASA schools across the country passed a motion two weeks ago supporting some of the principles outlined in the anonymously written, widely circulated “Open Letter to Canada’s Student Leaders,” which has called for a “new model for student representation to the federal government.”

The letter, originally posted on the website Wordpress.com and allegedly written by former CASA and Canadian Federation of Students members, promotes the idea of a unified federation that would allow provincial associations to work independently to develop policy, while being able to come together on a national level to lobby the federal government.

CFS is the largest student lobbying organization in Canada, representing over 80 student associations. CASA is the second-largest, representing about 25 student groups.

The motion to endorse some of the letter’s concepts was presented to CASA members by the University of the Fraser Valley Students’ Union Society. UFVSUS president Jack Brown explained that they were motivated not only by the open letter,

but also what they consider as a lack of a strong provincial student organization in B.C., where the CFS and CASA both currently operate.

“We were never really interested in joining that group for a variety of reasons. We joined CASA, [and] we like it more or less, but we think it could be something more,” said Brown.

“We think that the best way to

endorsed the idea.

“The fact that this is really just put out as an open letter — as a set of ideas and not a set of ideas with anyone’s name on it — makes it a little bit easier for everyone to sort of look at it as just a set of ideas, and think about what that means to the student movement in Canada,” said Eastham, who is also the chair of the Council of Alberta University Students, a provincial lobby group that recently passed a motion similar to CASA’s.

CASA chair Tina Robichaud indicated that while no specific timelines or dates for meetings and discussions have been set up yet, CASA hopes to meet with partners later in June, around the time of the organization’s next conference.

The next CASA conference, to be held at the University of Prince Edward Island this summer, will also offer to members the opportunity to elect a new national director. The organization announced March 15 that current national director Arati Sharma will not be seeking a second term and will be stepping down on April 1.

Some concerns have been raised over potential effects her departure may have on the organization, including that the McMaster Students’ Union — with which Sharma previously held an executive position — is rumoured to be considering leaving CASA.

“The fact that this is really just put out as an open letter — as a set of ideas and not a set of ideas with anyone’s name on it — makes it a little bit easier for everyone to sort of look at it as a set of ideas.”

BEVERLY EASTHAM
CAUS CHAIR

move forward is to unify the student movement in a way that is federal and respectful of each distinct [province’s] needs that arise,” Brown continued, adding that CASA members were “overwhelmingly” in favour of the idea.

UASU Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham was one of several supporters of the motion and indicated that other student groups have also

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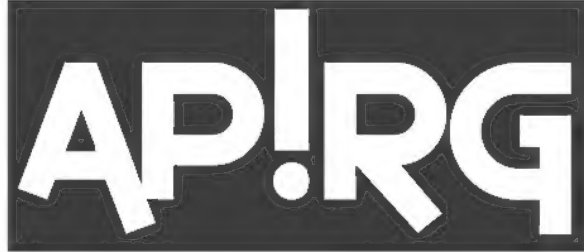
STUDENTS-AT-LARGE REQUIRED

The Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) requires TWO students-at-large from the University community to serve on its board of directors for the term of May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011.

Applicants must be U of A undergraduate students and may not be members of Students’ Council, General Faculties Council, Board of Governors, or the Senate of the University of Alberta.

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on what makes you a good candidate for this position no later than noon on Friday, April 16, 2010 to the Chair of the GSJS board. Submissions can be made by email to biz@gateway.ualberta.ca, or through the campus mail to Ashleigh Brown, c/o Gateway Student Journalism Society, 3-04 SUB.

Please outline previous volunteer experience and not-for-profit organization experience if applicable (though none is explicitly required).



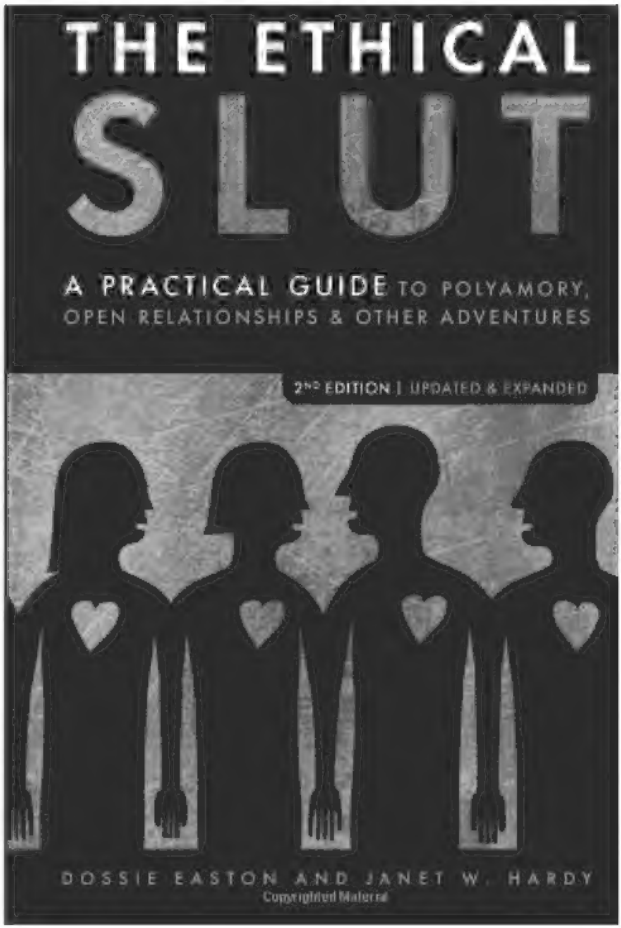
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“So we are proud to reclaim the word “slut” as a term of approval, even endearment. To us, a slut is a person of any gender who has the courage to lead life according to the radical proposition that sex is nice and pleasure is good for you.” - from *The Ethical Slut*



For More Info: Jess at outreach@apirg.org

ESS' support a sign of group weakness

IN A SURPRISING MOVE OVER THE LAST WEEK, THE Engineering Students' Society voiced their support for the University's market modifiers proposal, in the form of a letter to Doug Horner, the provincial Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. Naturally, there was a lot of opposition to the ESS stance — it's not every day that a student group, much less a faculty association, supports an increase in tuition — but there were students who backed the society's views, calling their approach fair and pragmatic.

To back up a bit, it's important to clarify what's at stake here. There are currently two proposals on the table to provide a solution to the student portion of the \$59-million University deficit: the Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Security fee (a \$550 per year non-instructional fee to be assessed to all students, regardless of field of study) and market modifiers (incremental increases to program costs for students in professional faculties, such as Engineering, Medicine & Dentistry, and Business). Both proposals would result in a roughly \$20-million increase in funding to the University, the amount that the administration has deemed students responsible for under the 20-20-20 students-staff-administration deficit-solving split.

The letter written by the senior executive of the ESS accepts its faculty's proposal wholesale. It's based upon a four-point strategy: proper application of fees, allocation of funding, a grandfathering system, and money for student awards. The second and third points are of particular note. The allocation proposal specifically directs the funding from the market modifier increase, with 60 per cent going towards the Engineering Faculty's budget, and 40 per cent to the U of A administration. The CoSSS fee, on the other hand, would presumably fund the University's operating budget at large. The third point — grandfathering — essentially puts the onus of footing the bill onto future students, meaning that no current engineering student would have to pay for market modifiers.

So, on the surface, the market modifiers seem like a good deal for engineers, or at least the current ones. Heck, it even sounds good for students outside of professional faculties; now that our future engineers, lawyers, and doctors get to pay these market modifiers, the deficit is fixed, and we don't have to pay a CoSSS fee anymore. It's a win-win situation, isn't it?

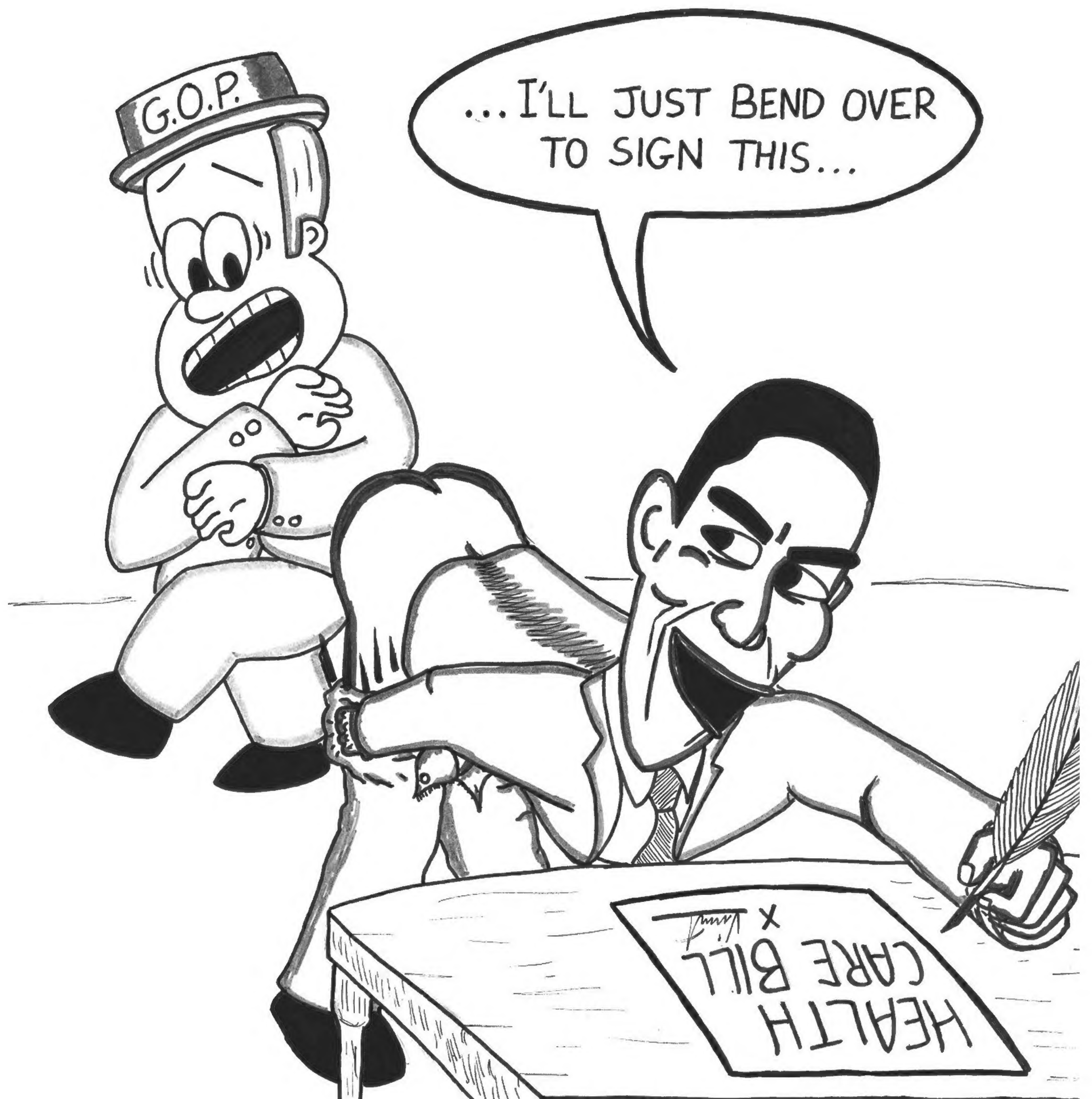
Unfortunately, it's not that simple. Nowhere in the ESS' letter do they explicitly oppose the CoSSS fee, although their executives later stated their opposition in the post-letter town hall session with their fellow students. It's a somewhat glaring omission to leave out, especially considering that they had a great opportunity to make their opposition to the \$550 fee clear to the minister. Whether this was a simple slip of their collective mind or an intentional oversight — perhaps as a concession to the University — is unknown.

Where the ESS' position really starts to fall apart, however, is when one compares it to similar letters sent to the University administration by other professional faculty associations. In late January, executives from the Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association, the Business Students' Association, the Medical Students' Association, and the Law Students' Association each sent a response to their respective faculties' market modifier proposals. With the exception of the BSA, none of the letters outright support the proposals like the ESS did. In addition, they created detailed conditions that needed to be met if market modifiers were to be enacted for their faculties.

In fact, one of the key points of the statements made by the APSA, MSA, and LSA was that the aforementioned CoSSS fee would not only be opposed, but must be paid by the faculty if it were to be enacted in tandem with market modifiers. Certainly a clever move, which makes the lack of a similar clause in the ESS' letter all the more puzzling. To move in such a lockstep way with their faculty shows a surprising amount of faith in their dean's decisions. Quite frankly, I find their surplus of faith disturbing.

The University is in dire financial straits, and like it or not, students will be paying to help them out in some capacity. In order to get the best deal for our money, however, we're going to have to negotiate. And despite what some so-called student leaders may think, concession isn't negotiation.

LUCAS WAGNER
Online Editor



ROSS VINCENT

from THE web

The right idea, but...

RE: (U of A to implement watch program for mental health, March 16)
"Principally, the effect that an 'education' campaign to ask students to report on their peers would have on campus spirit."

I would agree with this concern: in conversation about this article today, it was brought to my attention that nearly all the students I know have, at one time or another, been going through a rough time, or extreme stress. I would imagine that the major difficulty in this system would be separating those students who are under "normal" or "acceptable" levels of stress (which may be far from healthy, but that is another debate entirely) from those who are in need of help.

I applaud the effort to increase counselling services, and agree that it must be improved, and that awareness of mental health issues is a valid cause. However, putting the onus on staff and other students to report behaviours will not, in my mind, replace an enlarged, more effective, and streamlined successor to Student Counselling Services.

"TD"
Via Internet

Cancer Cure?

RE: (Reactor shutdown may intensify medical isotope deficit) March 18

I wished that I would have known five years ago what I know now. My poor wife changed from a healthy person in five months to a 70-pound nothing with the "isotopes" and passed away. Many of these so-called cures with isotopes do not work.

President Reagan, who was supposed to die of cancer went to Germany. They "cooked" with a directed beam of a radio transmitter the cancer place. He was cured and lived for another 19 years.

JOSEPHUS HAP
Via Internet

UA professors earn more of doing less for students

RE: (Market modifiers get ESS support, March 18)

On average, most of U of A faculty members only teach three courses per year. So they only teach about 100 hours per year, but earn about \$100,000 in their annual salary. The U of A president has the highest salary plus benefits among all Canadian university presidents.

U of A administrators say, "Oh, our faculty members are working on research very hard." It has to be pointed out that these people are paid with government money

and students' tuition for teaching, not for research; their research is not beneficial for students. They instead affect teaching. Most of the research results are not useful for teaching and for economic development, but only for publishing useless papers.

They spend far too much time getting government money for their research to spend on personal traveling tourism. Some research funds are used for personal and family purposes, including traveling around the world for "conferences," and buying electronic equipment (cameras, computers, and so on) for their own personal use.

Every three years, they can have six months free of teaching, and can go anywhere in the world using their research funds and get a second full-time job but still receive 80 per cent of their university salary. Many professors have their own family business companies. And in engineering, every professor can take one day per week to do their own business in the name of professional development.

MIKE LEE
Via Internet

Kudos to the University

RE: "U of A to implement watch program for mental health" March 18

Kudos to the U of A for stepping

up and taking the lead in addressing the mental health issues that many schools and, indeed, society as a whole have a habit of turning a blind eye on.

"BRYAN"
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca, telepathically transmitted to the editor's mind, or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed in a non-Internet friendly medium that old-timers like to call "paper."

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Letters submitted to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, no shorter than two-and-a-half words, and should include the author's first, family, and middle names, program, year of study, and student identification number to even be considered for publication.

New Alberta Party lacks ideology

A moderate platform of listening to the people is nothing but pure populism



BRUCE CINNAMON

Alberta, land of political turmoil and dramatic personalities, is about to be graced by yet another political party. As the blooming Wildrose Alliance reorganizes the extreme right — fracturing the Conservative Party into manic ideologues, quasi-evangelicals, and tired bean-counters — the new Alberta Party plans to seize the opportunity, stride up the centre, and reinvigorate the political system. The 60 per cent of formerly apathetic voters will finally have an option that makes sense. Moderates will at last reclaim the Legislature from the hopeless Liberal opposition and the Conservative dynasty. Change, progress, and harmony will ensue. And all that they need to succeed is to listen to you.

Edwin Erickson, leader of the new Alberta Party, intends to “do politics differently,” just like every other new party in the history of political parties. Reaching out to the common people through grassroots, living room campaigns, his party really wants to listen to you, to find out what’s up, and to promise to get up to that big ol’ building and fix things up real good. The

new party wants to meet you face to face, and to look you in the eye while they listen, rather than “hovering around in cyberspace,” because we know how ineffective the Internet is as a political tool.

The Alberta Party has dismissed working with the Alberta Liberals or the NDP, because “repeated election results have shown that neither party is capable of forming government.” The Liberal Party of Alberta struggles under an unfriendly association with their eastern brethren, but to abandon the opposition party in this manner

This is a party dedicated to citizen consultation, but beyond that, there is no cohesive political philosophy or agenda behind it.

is foolish. Does the newly minted Alberta Party really expect anything other than what they predict for the Conservatives: division among the opposition that will perpetually prevent them from forming a government?

Admittedly, the idea of a new party is not wrong or ineffective in itself, but the notion that a new party will be all it takes to restore sanity and accountability to Alberta politics is

foolish. The Alberta Party promises a platform of common sense, not another “ideological approach.” This is a party dedicated to citizen consultation, but beyond that, there is no cohesive political philosophy or agenda behind it. This may seem refreshing at first, but it makes one wonder whether the formation of a new party is necessary.

Political parties, by their nature, exist for the convenience of the voter and the representative — we need not do extensive research to know what policies they plan to institute, and they have a party-line opinion to follow. But the idea of a party run on practical, “common sense” solutions is opaque. “Common sense” and “practicality” are ambiguous terms, so it’s unclear what the party really wants for the province.

While they’re listening so intently to Albertans, this new party will likely meet disagreement on the best course of action for the government to take. This is to be expected within any party, but one that vows to incorporate the ideas of citizens to an abstract ideology cannot claim that any one political belief is more reasonable than another. There can be no unity in the middle. Perhaps, rather than assembling a new party in a nebulous political centre, the Big Listen should advocate more independents in government — representatives who are more responsible to their constituencies and in tune with their electors’ specific concerns.

Female circumcision an alarming reality



KATRINA PONICH

“In our age of postmodern cultural relativism, western people are wary of critiquing what is considered the issue of a distant people. It’s also harder to critique an ancient practice. Female circumcision is thought to predate Christianity, and often this is used to fuel the belief that it is acceptable.”

No perceptive Canadian would question the vibrant multiculturalism present in our country today. Although this is generally a positive thing, some cultural practices, such as female genital mutilation (FGM), have spread beyond their tribal roots. Unbeknownst to the majority of Canadians, the travesty of female circumcision happens in our communities.

Allowing young, female, Canadian citizens to undergo this cultural practice is both barbaric and humiliating. Canada is a global leader in advocating human rights, yet we allow this to happen to young girls without a voice. Writing a specific clause in the citizenship guidebook banning FGM doesn’t address the underlying symptoms that cause it. Just because these practices have a cultural basis doesn’t overrule the fact that it blatantly ignores a woman’s right to control her own body.

Female circumcision consists of partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, for either cultural or religious reasons. There are many different variations of genital mutilation — probably the most well-known are the horror stories of girls having their clitoris removed, and the labia minora and majora sewn together. The girl’s legs must be tied together for two to six weeks to make sure that the labia fuse together. A small opening is left to allow urine and menstrual blood to pass through. This causes sexual intercourse to be very painful, and in

some cultures, men let one of their fingernails grow longer than usual, to use as a knife to rip through the closure, and make a hole large enough for intercourse.


Prohibition in many countries has led to FGM moving underground and out of the public eye, leaving individuals to perform the procedures without medical training, sterilization, or anaesthesia. The mutilation can lead to the obstruction of the flow of urine and menstrual blood, scarring, and infertility. There are other possible consequences including HIV, abscesses and small benign tumours, cysts, hemorrhages, and shock. The long-term effects may also include kidney stones, sterility, sexual dysfunction, depression, various urinary tract infections, and various gynecological and obstetric problems.

In our age of postmodern cultural relativism, western people are wary of critiquing what is considered the issue of a distant people. It’s also harder to critique an ancient practice. Female circumcision is thought to predate Christianity, and often this is used to fuel the belief that it is acceptable. People may claim that these practices are none of our business because we don’t understand the culture. Defenders of the practice claim it is a rite of passage and the transition into womanhood. But it serves no purpose other than to reinforce negative stereotypes about women, infantilize women by making them dependent on men, and reinforce the notion

of women as male property. While people have the right to practice their faith and traditions, these practices have become less about tradition and more about men destroying young women’s innocence and establishing control.

Female genital mutilation should infuriate women of any culture, and we must especially stand against it when it’s happening in our neighbourhoods. It’s a method of control and oppression. In most societies where it is commonplace, one important belief is that this procedure will reduce a woman’s desire for sex, and in doing so, will reduce the chance of infidelity. An unmodified clitoris can supposedly lead to masturbation or lesbianism. Some view the clitoris and the labia as male parts on a female body, thus removal of these parts enhances the femininity of the girl. It’s also believed that unless a female has undergone this procedure, she is “unclean.”


Although some of these beliefs are completely ridiculous, it seems that they have infiltrated North America. By deeming the female genitalia disgusting and ugly, a new trend has been ignited: labiaplasty — plastic surgery aimed at making one’s labia more attractive. Whether it takes the form of voluntary cosmetic surgery, or forced genital mutilation, there is no reason for these practices to exist, other than to destroy the strength of women, and maintain the idea that they must be clean, beautiful, and feminine in order to be worthy.



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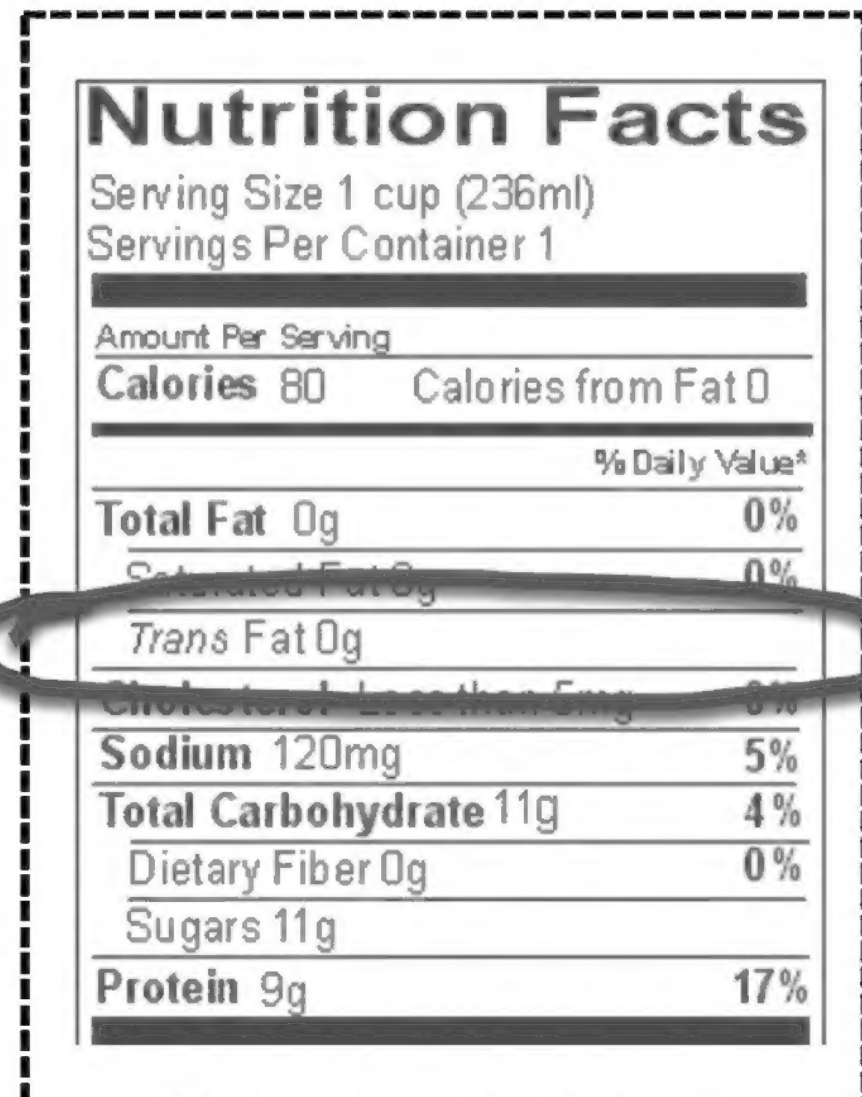
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Want to see this on campus?



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Is ESS' decision to support the tuition increase justified?

Market modifiers are a necessity for postsecondary education



CAOIMHÍN
JONES

point

Can you hear what I hear? That's the sound of seemingly slighted students outraged that their apathy has finally bitten them in the ass. Once again, students are complaining that their voices fall on deaf ears. But the ESS isn't deaf — engineering students are just mute.

While I may not have made the same decision that the executives of the ESS did, I fully stand by their decision and their actions. Engineers elect them in hopes that we don't actually have to get involved, and I fail to understand why so many students feel they retain the right to complain about the decision. Just 20 people showed up to the information session on January 13, and when the *Bridge* newsletter asked if there should be another forum, only one person responded. So, at the maximum, there are perhaps 21 people who have a legitimate right to complain about the ESS' decision.

From my perch in the Great Hall of NREF, I can hear two distinct categories of conversations occurring: anger over the ESS' decision to actively endorse market modifiers without "proper consultation," and details of how trashed everyone is going to get over the weekend. Seemingly unconnected, right? Wrong. The very students who blow copious amounts of money on the party life will be at the forefront of the complaining, claiming to pay through the teeth for that most sacred of human rights: education. It seems rather ironic that a large majority of the student demographic seems to have a rather large amount of disposable income to spend on trendy clothes, cigarettes, \$5

lattes, and booze, booze, booze. Maybe spending a little less money on the luxuries of life and a little more on education will make students appreciate the essentials in life a little more, instead of taking their education for granted. Education is no longer an achievement. Education is an expectation. An expectation taken for granted.

For those truly struggling to make ends meet during the school year, the application of the market modifiers calls for the creation of more student awards and funding. Seems villainous, doesn't it — taking money from the rich and giving to the poor? The ESS sounds more and more like Robin Hood every day. I'm completely behind anything that helps bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots of the student world.

And if you want to maintain the prestige of attending a great university, you need to pay to keep the quality of education high.

The question that truly irks me when a tuition increase or fee is proposed — and I seem to be hearing it a lot lately — is "what's in it for me?" It unfortunately costs money to keep the University running. And if you want to maintain the prestige of attending a great university, you need to pay to keep the quality of education high. Let's not forget about all the little extras that everyone wants.

If you don't like something, you shouldn't wait until the last minute to say something. I know that many feel as though their idealism is being attacked at the moment, but realistically, most students will still be able to go to school. It may cost them their Puma shoes and their \$5 frappé, but they will still be here next year.

Engineers unable to afford these excessive and irrelevant fees



JASON
LUK

counterpoint

As a former engineering student group executive, I fully understand the meaninglessness of such positions. An ignored election to legitimize being the only ones up for the job doesn't make one a true representative. The ESS' audacious statement on behalf of complacent students may be well intentioned.

While the recession hits everyone, students don't have the same access to funds or credit as the University to ride it out.

It's true that engineers will eventually be able to pay off the cost of a four-year education. However, when I relay this logic to my landlord, he continues to shut off my water. While the recession hits everyone, students don't have the same access to funds or credit as the University to ride it out.

Bringing engineering tuition in line with other universities seems reasonable, but only if the community around us was competitive. We've lost both the advantage of cheap rent and a booming economy. The days of napping in company trucks every summer for \$30 an hour are gone. Cheap tuition is needed to bring in students that may still be concerned with safety regulations.

Increased costs will deter many students from applying, lowering the entrance requirements over time, which is great for marginal students. However, society really shouldn't lower standards for engineers. In the future, I want to take my family on a plane knowing it's designed to remain in the air.

On top of this, the capacity of engineers in Alberta is already stretched to the limit. A survey of engineering lecture halls and bathroom stalls is a showcase of appalling diet and hygiene habits. Time spent at part-time jobs will only worsen revolting physical well-being issues. And despite a rigorous education, one third of earth scientists and working engineers in Alberta don't believe we cause climate change. Granted, most of them live off the oil and gas sector, but what would happen if we create a generation of poorer graduates even more financially dependent on them?

The Faculty of Engineering can generate income by doing what it does best: selling out. We already have corporate-sponsored buildings and lecture halls, but we could easily extend this to the lectures themselves. I would love to save \$550 by attending "ENGG 405: Engineering for the Environment, the Economy and Exxon." Rather than subtly supporting students through scholarships, Halliburton coveralls could be mandated school uniforms. And attractive female students could receive \$1,000 educational top-ups for donning Syncrude cowboy hats.

The opportunities to solve this budget crunch are limitless. With a little creativity, there are plenty of feasible solutions to be found that are less harmful and sexier. Students don't have the ability to cope with increased costs. Unfortunately, they also don't seem to have the ability to speak up for themselves. Instead, they are left with people who are as arrogant as myself to make presumptuous statements on their behalf.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' COUNCIL & GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2010

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

THIS YEAR'S
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ARTS

Petros Kusmu (SUPA)
Malori Stan (SUPA)
Nariman Saidane (SUPA)
Aditya Rao (SUPA)
Joel French (SUPA)
Kenzie Gordon (SUPA)

BUSINESS

Colten Yamagishi
Harry Chandler

EDUCATION

Ngina wa Kaai

ENGINEERING

Michael Ross
Farid Iskandar
Noel Broughton
Ben Lambert

LAW

Leslie Stitt

MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Antonia Johnson

NATIVE STUDIES

Jake Archie

NURSING

Jenna Parsonage

PHARMACY

Sarah Zhao

FACULTÉ SAINT-JEAN

Raphael Lepage Fortin

SCIENCE

Deep Brar
Kim Ferguson
Tom L'Abbé
Doug Cheung
Wei Qiang
Steven Huynh
Andy Cheema

Seats Still Open:

Education - 2
Open Studies - 1
Physical Education & Recreation - 1

**** Students may run for the remaining positions in the September by-election.**

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS

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Airell DesLauriers
Natalie Cox

ARTS

Gabriel Tremblay
Petros Kusmu
Kelvin Flanagan
Mike Siebert
Gabriel Sanstrom

BUSINESS

Colten Yamagishi
Pierce Quaghebeur

EDUCATION

Ngina wa Kaai

ENGINEERING

Claire Smith
Michael Ross
Jocelyn Westwood
Danny Bachman
Peter Roland

LAW

Ashley Taunton

MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Andre Isaac

PHARMACY

Jan Ruzinski

FACULTÉ SAINT-JEAN

Raphael Lepage Fortin

SCIENCE

Tom L'Abbé
Mathew Palakkamanil
Dustin Chelen
Andy Cheema
Matthew Li
Michael Prefontaine
Ethan Dorward
Doug Cheung
Antoinette Chamoun

Seats Still Open:

Arts - 3
Business - 1
Education - 3

Native Studies - 1
Nursing - 2
Physical Education & Recreation - 1

**** Students may run for the remaining positions in the September by-election.**

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ELECTION RESULTS PLEASE VISIT

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Abortion arguments need to be reframed



MUSTAFA FAROOQ

I love the University in the spring. The leaves are sprouting, a new but already jaded-looking SU Executive comes into office, professors begin wrapping up their inane assignments, and a whole lot of interesting posters start showing up all around campus.

As I was lolling in the Humanities building shortly before class, I looked up from a copy of *Oedipus Rex* to see a poster with a vaguely vicious looking clothes hanger on it. I've never really been a big fan of hangers, mostly because the back of my chair is always somehow easier to use in terms of organizing my shirts. This particular hanger, on the other hand, appeared to be much more menacing than most — particularly scary and sharp looking, like the Freddy Krueger glove. With my usual naïvety, I asked one of my classmates what the symbolic importance of the hanger might be.

And I had thought the plot of *Oedipus* was disturbing.

The abortion debate on campus, especially at this time of year, gets to be really ridiculous and sometimes downright wrong. Across university campuses, the pro-life movement ran an awareness campaign comparing abortions to the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide. At the same time, the pro-choicers posted the hanger posters around campus. The pro-life movement had rather graphic displays of dead babies. And so on and so forth. There is even a strange form of graffiti that takes place on the posters. I saw a pro-life poster asserting

“And while I agree that a woman has the right to control her own body, shouldn't that apply at the time when a woman agrees to have a relationship with a man? People (and that includes children) should have a right to life that can only be precluded in very specific circumstances.”

that, “Fetus in Latin means ‘Young One.’” The eloquent response was, “Osculari in Latin means mouth.” Classic. And a little bit weird, if I may say so.

I think the big issue is that both sides assume that the other is amoral, atheistic, stupid, child-killing, or woman-hating. But if we really want to make progress, we need to listen to each other in order to find the truth in the matter.

I agree with a lot of what the pro-lifers have to say. And I've been convinced that in most circumstances, abortion seems like a really bad idea. My very existence sort of stops me from calling for abortion: if my mom had decided to abort me, I wouldn't be writing this article.

On the other hand, there are certain circumstances in which abortion might be the better of two evils, like when a woman is the subject of rape or incest, or when the woman's life is in danger. Some religious authorities in the Muslim world, for example, say that if the fetus is still in the initial stages of life, and it can be proven without doubt that the woman's life is in serious danger, it is ethical for an abortion to take place. This is a very reasonable position.

And that's what pro-lifers need: reason. Enough with pictures of aborted babies and strange correlations of abortion with breast cancer. No more guilt-trip posters. Instead, they need to come up with strong, moving arguments for why abortion isn't cool, and learn to listen a little more to where the pro-choicers are

coming from.

Likewise, I agree with a lot of the points that the “Voices For Choices” types have to make. Unsafe abortions are a real problem in the world, with over 20 million unsafe abortions worldwide. Thousands of those women die, according to the World Health Organization. And while I agree that a woman has the right to control her own body, shouldn't that apply at the time when a woman agrees to have a relationship with a man? People (and that includes children) should have a right to life that can only be precluded in very specific circumstances. The actual statistics on this topic are a little bit unclear, but a sizeable portion of women who have abortions do live to regret them. The choice movement could also learn to see if the other side of the fence has anything useful to say.

Really, we as a society need to examine why women want abortion. It's astounding that more than 100,000 women chose to have abortions in Canada in 2006. The central question shouldn't be whether abortion is morally right or not, but rather why motherhood is so stigmatized, why we lack social services to help new mothers, and why so many women are faced with such difficulties without support. If either side of the abortion debate devoted their energy instead to addressing these issues, the world would be a much better place.

It's time to abandon our hangers, learn to get over our hang-ups, and foster real debate.

Israel Apartheid Week weakens dialogue



MATT GORDNER

Wearing a Che Guevara shirt has become a popular symbol and a leftist fad. Of what exactly, I'd wager that few really know. Of course Che stands for popular resistance, which is a good enough message to promote. But do those who boast his face on their chests recognize that Che was a mass murderer, a political assassin, and a violent, brutal figure who killed innumerable innocents? Probably not.

While the Palestinian Solidarity Network must be congratulated for bringing the dominating relationship between certain Israeli actions and certain Palestinian populations to the forefront, I fear that in promoting the recent Israel Apartheid Week, the PSN has eschewed the truth about the conflict and its history entirely. They have made the plight of the Palestinians a voguish symbol, cheapening the suffering of Palestinians and Israelis alike.

The PSN not only harms the peace process, abandoning meaningful and inclusive dialogue, but this so-called “resistance” against “apartheid” has waded into deep pools of hypocrisy, and risks drowning the converted to

whom they preach. They purvey not only misinformation, but also perpetuate racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism.

I lived, studied, and worked in both Israel and Palestine for years, and I therefore feel duty-bound to speak out against these means and methods. As a former political consultant to the Palestinian Authority, I noted that few Palestinians or Israelis advocate for the term — let alone preach for a boycott, divestment, and sanction (BDS) of Israeli cultural, economic and academic production — since a BDS would only hurt Palestinians' everyday lives, which are dependent on Israeli goods and services.

The PSN knows very little about what they preach, and IAW is apologetic hypocrisy.

The use of the word “apartheid” is itself racist; it implies ethnic or racial prejudice alone. But Israelis are not “separating” Palestinians only because they are Palestinian. They're erecting a barrier and placing checkpoints in large part because they seek peace and security from suicide bombing and other acts of violence against innocent Israeli civilians — Muslim, Jewish, or Christian.

Palestinians, for their part, rightly seek out peace and justice, but the

PSN's cause is deleterious to that, too. “Apartheid” is a legal term connoting an inside/outside relationship. Carried to its logical conclusion, “apartheid” applies solely to those in the West Bank and Gaza, to the exclusion of legal and moral claims of the Palestinian diaspora and Arab Israelis. Evoking “apartheid,” the PSN neglects the right of return for the former, and ignores the unfair treatment of the latter.

The paradox is that the PSN and IAW stand atop Canadian soil — a country built upon its own “apartheid.” But who's boycotting Canada? In sponsoring speakers and events that label *all* Zionists racist, the PSN is constructing a truth of its own. Not all Zionists agree with Israeli policy.

The PSN knows very little about what they preach, and IAW is apologetic hypocrisy. It's not pro-Palestinian nor pro-human rights. It's anti-Israeli and anti-Zionist. The PSN and its ilk should visit the region, learn more than one truth, more than one historiography, cast aside their voguish leanings, educate themselves on Palestinian abuses of Israeli and Palestinian human rights, and adopt instead a method and means that may lead to both “peace and justice” and “peace and security,” rather than choosing one to the exclusion of the *other*. Promoting prejudice by preaching “apartheid” is not pro-peace. The PSN should write off the Che approach to politics and search for a Palestinian Gandhi to support instead.

MAC EWAN

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body, and spirit

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INTOXICATING PRICES

WORDS BY SIMON YACKULIC
PHOTOS BY AARON YEO



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada estimates that 10 million Canadians drink beer, and among those millions of beer drinkers are many of the students at the University of Alberta. While these sud savants are always prepared to passionately debate the merits of their chosen beer over any other, many don't fully understand the mechanics of the beer industry, how changes in the system affect cost, and how price fluctuations have a significant impact on the lives of many Albertans. To get a better idea of how beer travels from the brewery to your pint glass, Simon Yackulic looked into how the province controls and regulates this important trade, and how decisions regarding liquor laws are relevant to both the retailers and the consumers.

THE FOAM ON THE TOP

While beer production isn't overly convoluted, some of the terminology used can be difficult to grasp at first. Due to the large volumes of beer produced, the breweries and provincial regulations discuss beer quantity in terms of hectolitres, which is roughly equivalent to 12.2 24-packs of bottles — or if you prefer to work in cans, about 11.7 24-packs. To put this in perspective, in December 2009, Albertans consumed 171,375 hectolitres of beer. This means Alberta collectively drank the rest of the prairies under the table, with Manitoba and Saskatchewan only consuming 57,179 and 48,563 hectolitres of beer, respectively.

In Alberta, while the system has been "privatized," the provincial government still exercises significant control and oversight over the industry through the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. AGLC Executive Director (Regulatory) Gill Hermanns explained that with privatization, the government was concerned about big chains squeezing out competition. The resulting compromises in the system were made to encourage an even playing field, and the AGLC ensures that this balance is maintained through its oversight role.

"One of the key elements was 'the same price for everybody.' So no matter how much you order, [big chains] pay the same price as the mom-and-pop store that's a standalone store. So they pay the same price for the product and for delivery, no matter where it's shipped in the province," Hermanns said.

In regards to price, the AGLC has considerable sway in its ability to mark up the prices of different liquors. Different drinks are marked-up by the government in varying levels, generally rising with increased alcohol content. While your standard beer is marked up \$0.98 per litre,

a normal 40 per cent alcohol-per-volume bottle of rye or vodka is marked up \$13.30 per litre. Spirits with greater than 60 per cent alcohol-per-volume are marked-up at \$17.87 per litre.

While the provincial government attempted to increase mark-ups on beer last summer, the raise didn't stick around for long. The government faced widespread discontent with the higher prices, and Hermanns explained that "due to the feedback the government got, they rolled the mark-ups to back where they were before." The adoption and dismissal of various mark-up schemes across Canada in recent years have caused beer prices to fluctuate province to province.

Before last summer's increases, Alberta beer prices were among the lowest in the country — while locally brewed beer varies in price, the larger domestic chains tended to go for less in Alberta than elsewhere. After the mark-ups, an *ad hoc* survey of beer outlets by the *Calgary Sun* concluded that Alberta's beer was the most expensive in the country. The AGLC is certain that the relaxation on the mark-up increases have restored our beer prices to a more consumer-friendly range.

"When the mark-up went through, and before it was reversed, we were higher than a lot of the other provinces," Hermanns explained. "But a lot of those other provinces have now put in their own mark-up increases, and we rolled back ours. So we're generally where we were before — one of the lower ones now."



PRICE MARK-UPS
Beer
\$0.98 per litre
Rye or Vodka
\$13.30 per litre.
Spirits
\$17.87 per litre.

"WHEN THE MARK-UP WENT THROUGH, AND BEFORE IT WAS REVERSED, WE WERE HIGHER THAN A LOT OF THE OTHER PROVINCES"

—GILL HERMANNNS

SPIRIT OF THE LAW

Alberta has a private alcohol distribution system with significant governmental oversight. All liquor products must be ordered through the AGLC, which is a crown corporation. Once the AGLC receives payment, orders are shipped to one of two private companies which act as liquor distributors — either the Connect Logistics warehouse in St. Albert for spirits, wine, imported beer, and premium beer, or Brewers Distributor Ltd. for domestic beer. These companies then distribute the products to liquor stores and bars throughout the province.

In 2007, the AGLC conducted a study of the Alberta liquor distribution system in a report titled “Liquor Warehousing and Distribution in Alberta — Supply Chain Analysis.” The study looked at the systems of other provinces and states compared to the Alberta model. One option the study considered was the possibility of a fully private wholesale system, citing California as an example. The AGLC criticized this option, however, and noted that one of the benefits of Alberta’s system was that it provides an equal playing field for retailers, preventing them from being pushed around by larger private wholesalers.

The study also looked at Iowa, which has a system similar to Alberta, but was also considering the California model. It noted that, if Iowa adopted the California model, market pressures would ensure that “retailers will be forced to purchase a particular brand from a particular wholesaler. In effect, Iowa would be trading a ‘public’ monopoly for a ‘private’ monopoly.” The report also argued that Alberta has benefited by the control that the AGLC has over the system in regards to price control and access to the same services by rural areas.

The report and the AGLC generally support the current system of distribution in Alberta. Jim Gibbon, the owner and co-founder of Amber’s Brewery, sees the current system in Alberta as flawed, but still the best in the country. As a local small-scale brewer, Gibbon sees both advantages and disadvantages with the current system that the larger brewers don’t contend with. He notes that “the provincial government is very supportive of the local industry.” While your average beer has a mark-up of \$0.98 per litre, the provincial government scales the mark-ups on a basis of production amounts. Small breweries producing less than 20,000 hectolitres annually are only assessed \$0.20 per litre, while a brewer

producing more than that, but less than 200,000 hectolitres is only assessed \$0.40. As well, smaller breweries like Amber’s are allowed to deliver some of their product themselves.

“To be honest, it’s actually a pretty good distribution system,” Gibbon commented. “Like in Saskatchewan, if you want to sell kegs — if you can believe this — you can’t actually deliver your own keg.

“I hate the Alberta system, but the only thing worse on Earth are all the other [systems].”

The privatized focus of the Alberta process is often cited as the primary cause of lower liquor prices due to the competition that fully public systems lack. Hermanns noted that there isn’t a single private or public model policy, but a spectrum of options that the individual provincial control boards pick and choose from.

“Some of the provinces do have private liquor stores, in conjunction with their government stores,” Hermanns said, noting however that in Alberta, “even the warehouse is privatized.”

At first, this may seem counterintuitive. The current Alberta model is monopolistic at the warehouse level — the only difference between the current private system and the former government model is that the warehouse is currently in the hands of a company instead of being run by the province. Hermanns defended the Alberta model, noting that the warehouse contracts must be re-bid on, keeping the market in play.

“The model we have is the most cost-efficient to the retailers. You lose a little bit because it’s not competitive. But the competitive process comes in that they may get a five-year contract, but then they have to re-bid for it,” Hermanns said. “So the [competition] comes in that other people can bid on the contract.”

AGLC’s media contact Lynn Hutchings-Mah explained that on the imported and micro-brewed beer side, since Connect Logistics had just renewed their contract last year, it will be a few more years before the contract comes up for renewal again. BDL, on the other hand, distributes the larger domestic labels such as Molson, Labatt, and Sleeman. These brands also jointly own BDL, and its contract does not come up for re-bidding.

“The contract is in place until about 2014 with Connect,” Hutchings-Mah elaborated. “BDL is not under contract. The Alberta government, with the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, appointed [BDL] as a distributor.”



“I HATE THE ALBERTA SYSTEM, BUT THE ONLY THING WORSE ON EARTH ARE ALL THE OTHER SYSTEMS.”

—JIM GIBBON



A BREWING MARKET

Britannia is a liquor retailer that also supplies many city bars with kegs throughout the week. Ryan Mattis, an employee for Britannia Liquor who is responsible for placing and receiving orders from Connect and BDL, explained that he finds some flaws in the monopolistic nature of the current system. The shortfalls, he said, become apparent with having only one company controlling the liquor stock for an entire province.

“Overall, I think it’s good. But the problem I find is that sometimes — because there is only the one supplier for anything — if they’re out of stock, we’re out of stock. Everybody is out of stock — which sometimes hurts us,” Mattis said.

Mattis, however, echoed what the AGLC posits as one of the key components of the system. Though the system is exclusive, the warehouses are mandated to provide the same service across the board, keeping the playing field even for small outlets competing with large chains.

“I think in some ways it does help,” Mattis noted. “Because if you only have one supplier all across the board, it evens the playing field, so you don’t have one guy coming in and

undercutting that.”

Hermanns explained that a major benefit of Alberta’s system was improved selection compared to before privatization. He explained that Alberta has jumped from having only around 3,500 different alcoholic products available before privatization — around the level of most other provinces today — to currently around 14,000 choices.

The model, as it stands, lets private interests bring products into the warehouse where the product is held in bond and then sold. While the downside is that some groups might bring in large quantities of beer of a special variety and then lose money if it doesn’t sell, the more competitive flavour stands in contrast to when the government controlled the selection and might have had a more limited and conservative palate on purchasing different varieties of alcohol.

Hermanns sees this large selection available as a clearly visible sign of success for the AGLC.

“We went from a couple of hundred stores in the province to about 1,400 stores now,” Hermanns explained. “And you have more selection in this province than any other.”



Joe Rogan shares his love of DMT with the masses

comedyreview

**Joe Rogan:
Talking Monkeys in Space**
CD and DVD available March 30

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Anyone with a passing knowledge of comedian Joe Rogan knows a few things about him: he smokes weed and DMT; he thinks Carlos Mencia is a no-talent joke-stealer; and he hosted the reality show *Fear Factor* when it was still on the air. But not everyone knows what he thinks of Lady Gaga, which is exactly what I was most interested in hearing about.

"She's a really good musician, although that 'Poker Face' song makes me want to pull my fucking ears off my head. But that's just one song. I mean, I've heard some of her other songs — she's a talented person," he admits.

Rogan, like the aforementioned pop star, is interested in the reasons certain people enter "the public consciousness" and become famous, and why others don't.

"It's always really interesting when someone rises to the top [...] and it's not always because they're good. Sometimes it's like, 'really, this fucking guy? How'd he get here?' It's a very strange thing, popularity," he says. "[Lady Gaga's] very good at pushing people's buttons and presenting an image, claiming she's a hermaphrodite — all sorts of wacky shit she's done."

Rogan's newest comedy special, *Talking Monkeys In Space* comes out on CD and DVD on March 30. On it, he jokes about having grey hair on his balls, how oxytocin keeps mothers from eating their own children, and watching anti-pot commercials while high.

He's outspoken about the legalization of marijuana, and despite being a comedian, he takes the issue very seriously, even calling out President Obama for laughing off legalization talks. Considering that people can go to prison for possessing a plant that "makes you silly," he doesn't

think it's very funny.

"You're committing a crime against humanity," Rogan says of those who keep marijuana illegal.

Besides being confused about the state of marijuana's legalization, he's equally perplexed by why more people aren't aware of the chemical DMT, and the significance it might hold for humanity.

"I think it's really telling that this is sort of a secret that people are hearing about from the fucking *Fear Factor* guy," he says.

"[DMT] is not on the cover of *Time* magazine, and there's no press conferences where the president has to address the nation [saying] they've found the gateway to heaven [...]. The body's production of DMT occurs when you're in heavy REM sleep, and it occurs when your brain thinks it's about to die — when you're under extreme stress, you know, car accidents, things like that — you pump out this chemical," he explains.

**"Bombing on stage is like
sucking a thousand dicks in
front of your mother."**

JOE ROGAN

Even though he's upset over the ignorance surrounding DMT, he clearly loves doing his standup, though he admits it can be hard to begin with, because no one ever starts out being as funny as a Richard Pryor or a Jerry Seinfeld. In the beginning, everyone sucks.

"Richard Jeni said, 'One of the great things about terrible comedians is that they inspire other comedians to try it' and it's totally true," he explains. "When you go to an open-mic night, you realize that you're just one of 20 terrible comedians — everyone's terrible, so the expectations are very low. Everyone's awful and no one's entertaining."

He likes nothing more than to please his audience, but he admits it's never fun to go up on stage and get no laughs.

"Bombing on stage is like sucking a thousand dicks in front of your mother."



White Ribbon captures German tragedy

filmreview

**The White Ribbon
(Das Wiesel Band)**

Written and directed by Michael Haneke
Starring Christian Friedel and Leonie Benesch
Garneau Theatre (8712-109 St.)
Now Playing

MATT HIRJI
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In the opening monologue of *The White Ribbon*, the narrator offers an ominous statement for a film set in Northern Germany during the months leading up to the First World War. "Perhaps this [story] will clarify some things that happened later in our country," the narrator states. What follows is a riveting story of a farm community beginning to question itself while being brought to war by their fascist government.

A barn is set ablaze, a woman is killed in a farming accident, and the town doctor breaks his collarbone after his horse trips over a suspiciously placed wire. *The White Ribbon* chronicles the processes in which a German farming community comes to terms with unexplainable acts of violence

that tears mercilessly on the town's social fabric.

What unfolds is a high-stakes whodunit story. As every day goes by that the senseless acts go unanswered and unpunished, the town becomes increasingly unsettled as their previously held beliefs and accepted social order are shaken. However, while the audience witnesses the unravelling of a community, the townspeople are intent on maintaining a façade of structure and orthodoxy.

While they attempt to reconcile the terrible events occurring within their local community, they're also faced with the turmoil of living in a nation teetering on the verge of armed conflict. Both within the community and throughout the country, a new incarnation of a traditional worldview is taking hold. It's perhaps what is occurring simultaneously outside the lens during this period piece that offers the film depth rarely witnessed in modern cinema. Director Michael Haneke makes it clear that the repressive and often unsettling ways that the community copes with their local tragedies is congruent with the broader fascist ideologies that fostered the emergence of WWI.

Similar to Haneke's critically acclaimed film *Caché*, *The White Ribbon*'s vision is cultivated through stunning cinematography and an

absorbing screenplay. The black and white picture works in conjunction with the film's studied pace to create a film that emanates tension. It's the cinematography, however, that persistently draws interest and makes the film so engaging. Comparable to P.T. Anderson's period drama *There Will Be Blood*, Haneke artistically employs unique filmmaking methods to establish an austere tone and style. The stark images of a German farm town complement the inhibited motions of community existing within it.

Haneke is an auteur capable of creating captivating stories with ambiguous antagonists. It's the inherent ambiguity of the story that makes the film so provocative. Without a firm understanding of who to vilify, the audience is left confused and sympathetic towards the film's characters, whose irrational attempts to reconcile the tragedies of the town begin to threaten the long sought-after status quo.

Through the use of unadorned black-and-white cinematography and a purposeful pace, Michael Haneke has produced an absorbing depiction of a small German village as it bears witness to a force of conservatism snowballing out of control. The result is an engaging film that places the landscape of early 20th century German society into perspective.

Time Machine comedy will make you hot

filmreview

Hot Tub Time Machine

Directed by Steve Pink
Starring John Cusack, Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson, Clark Duke, Chevy Chase, and Crispin Glover
Opens March 26

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Since I was a very young boy, my most recurring desire has been to sit in a hot tub for the majority of my waking life. I probably have an idealized view of what a hot tub is, but I don't care. No one can sully hot tubs for me. So when I say I really enjoyed this movie, know that I'm somewhat biased towards hot tubs. I'm also partial to time machines, but then again, who isn't?

Hot Tub Time Machine — which, frankly, is quite possibly the greatest title for any movie ever — tells the story of four friends who have lost touch with each other in recent days. They're older now and have problems of their own. Adam (Cusack) was just dumped by his girlfriend, and his 20-year-old nephew Jacob (Duke) lives in his basement, playing the video game *Second Life*, and generally letting his first life pass him by. His best friends Nick and Lou (Robinson and Corddry, respectively) aren't fairing much better. So they all decide to reunite for a weekend trip to their old party town, Kodiak Valley. But since its heyday, it has become rundown and decrepit, a shadow of its former glory days when bands like Poison stopped by to play gigs. But who needs parties and Poison when you have plenty of alcohol, experimental Russian energy drinks, and, most importantly, a hot tub that can bend space and time?

After determining that they've travelled back to the year 1986, they decide they must relive their night exactly like they did last time — mostly because they saw *the Butterfly Effect* and don't want



to end up like Ashton Kutcher did in that flick. So, Adam is supposed to break up with his incredibly hot girlfriend again, Lou is destined to endure a ferocious beating from some alpha-male ski-patrol jerks, and Nick is surprisingly sad to repeat a sexy time with one of his band's groupies because he still feels devoted to his wife, who, at their present time, is only nine years old. Most importantly, however,

that says we got in this hot tub and went back in time?" It's a ridiculous film, even downright idiotic at times, but the jokes are told so stylishly that it works, even when you don't anticipate that it will. Sure, it's not high art, but it does what it does well enough, and is surprisingly funny along the way.

Not every gag works every time, but they do for the most part, and with a lightning-fast pace,

Who needs parties and Poison when you have plenty of alcohol, experimental Russian energy drinks, and, most importantly, a hot tub that can bend space and time?

is Jacob, who doesn't want to risk not being born as a result of his friend's failures to relive their actions of 20 years prior.

On more than one occasion, the filmmakers acknowledge the absurdity of the movie they're making. Jacob poses this question after a moment of stunned silence: "Do I really got to be the asshole

Hot Tub Time Machine is a refreshingly complete comedy trip. It's basically a dirtier and funnier version of *Back to the Future*, except this time, they're travelling back to the '80s, when the original *BTTF* was made. Hell, they even bump into a one-armed Crispin Glover along the way. Now that's how you remake a film.



albumreview

Gorillaz

Plastic Beach
Parlophone

GRANT CRAWFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I've always been of the opinion that Gorillaz are not so much a statement on the commodification and commercialism of music, but rather the only viable commercial path open to Damon Albarn after Blur lost the battle of Britpop. After contributing to the over-commercialization of the genre, which lead directly to Blur's destruction, no one would take Albarn seriously, so he invented a virtual band to front for himself — an almost brilliant marketing ploy to ensure the inevitable Blur comparisons would not be so inevitable.

To further cement Gorillaz as a commercial (for the sake of being commercial) band, their new album is entitled *Plastic Beach*, which is a very loose concept album about consumerism and disposability, one of the most marketable concepts around these days.

Of course, when it comes to the music, none of this really matters. Unless you care and take the time to learn their names, you can get by without knowing who Gorillaz are, as the album is supported (and to some extent driven) by a large and talented cast of guests. Albarn is a pop musician, but his vision of pop is skewed and dissonant. There are no singles here to rival "Clint Eastwood" or "Feel Good Inc." Instead, the album has a much more eclectic and scattershot approach, and a few of these songs reveal themselves to be some of Gorillaz' best. The rest are unfortunately as disposable as the concept.

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albumreview

Run With The Kittens

Myth in the Sky
Unsigned

ALIX KEMP

Arts & Entertainment Staff

I'm deeply saddened that I hadn't heard of this band before now — because seriously, who can resist a name like Run With The Kittens? *Myth In The Sky* is actually their fifth album, a short five-track release with an eclectic, often bewildering sound that I'm not going to try to pin down to a ridiculously hyphenated genre.

The album's intro track, the completely instrumental piece "Caledonia" could have been a bit shorter, or possibly excluded altogether. When singer Nate Milk is finally introduced on the record's second track, his haunting voice almost comes as a surprise. The four vocal-based tracks are all fairly long, averaging about five minutes, and they can get a little tedious during long instrumental interludes meant to show off their bizarre genre combinations. The album's title track is fantastic and engaging until Milk starts repeating the same line, "at who's around," for over a minute and a half. However, I'm impressed with RWTK's understated sense of humour, which becomes incredibly obvious in the fourth track, "Old-Time Cell Phones."

Ultimately, *Myth In The Sky* has some great parts of songs and incredibly smart lyrics, but Run With The Kittens wastes a little too much time trying to be unclassifiable and clever. With only five tracks, they really shouldn't be wearing on my patience, but managed to do that anyway.

Citadel revives Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie*

Christopher Schulz explains why dysfunctional families shouldn't play matchmaker for their kids

theatrepreview

The Glass Menagerie

Written by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Tom Wood

Starring Fiona Reid, Shaun Smyth, and Christopher Schulz

Runs March 27-April 18

Citadel Theatre (9828-101A Ave.)

\$40-75 at citadeltheatre.com

JANE VOLOBOEVA

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Who would have guessed that a play written by a badly abused young man in 1914 during an economic downfall would be as relevant today at a time of a similar economic crisis? Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* will not only ring true in the economic sense, but will also tackle topics of family dysfunction and false pretenses.

"Most people will be able to relate to something in one of the characters, because all four of them are quite different in their own way. It covers a broad spectrum," promises Christopher Schulz, who plays the character of Jim the gentleman caller.

Telling the story of a family with more problems than one would care to count, *The Glass Menagerie* explores the complex characters of Amanda, Tom, and Laura Wingfield, who are miserable, and yet full of hope. Poor Jim, Schulz's character, gets thrown into the middle of the Wingfield's family life without ever asking for it.

"He initially doesn't know that Tom has a sister, and when he's in the scene with her, he's just there to entertain her and make her feel better. It's all honest and simple things going on," explains Schulz.

Dark and complex factors are hidden beneath

the simplicity of the play. What seems to be a simple dinner for Jim turns out to be the evening where Laura's fate is decided. The Wingfield family attempt to inspire Jim's interest in Laura, but ultimately fail.

"They put all their hopes and dreams into this one moment, and when it doesn't work out, it's the straw that breaks the camel's back," says Schulz.

The central conflict, however, seems to lie deep within the Wingfield family; they seem to have no interest in building relationships among each other, and they seem solely interested in improving their financial situation.

"The freshness of the piece lies in the fact that [Tennessee Williams] wrote it before he got famous."

CHRISTOPHER SCHULZ
ACTOR, *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*



that you need to understand and deal with," Schulz says.

Indeed, Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* has kept audiences engaged throughout many decades.

"The freshness of the piece lies in the fact that [Tennessee Williams] wrote it before he got famous. After he got noticed, his output as an artist changed," Schulz admits.

Yet this production of Williams' masterpiece promises to yield positive results. Christopher Schulz has found himself caught amidst the creative process of putting *The Glass Menagerie* together, and has been touched by it.

"There's so much hope and devastation," he says. "Most people know how it ends, but you still find yourself hoping for the characters. Your heart is broken even though you knew it was going to be and that happens in life, too. Hope is contagious. You want to believe."



The end is near for Team Freshman 15.

Watch for our follow-up feature in the
Gateway on April 1st to see how
everyone did after 12 weeks.

Follow them at:

www.thegatewayonline.ca/blogs/freshman15

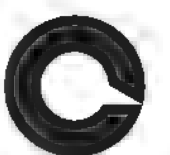
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albumreview

iLLvibe
Sex, Love & Hip Hop Soul
SoulOut Music

MADELINE SMITH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Ontario rapper iLLvibe is suffering from a terrible case of unfortunate marketing choices. It's almost impossible to take him seriously at first, considering the combination of awkward album artwork and a stage name that only evokes images of white-boy rappers trying to use supposedly cool hip-hop catchphrases. The weird, unnecessary capitalization in the middle of his moniker doesn't help

much, either.

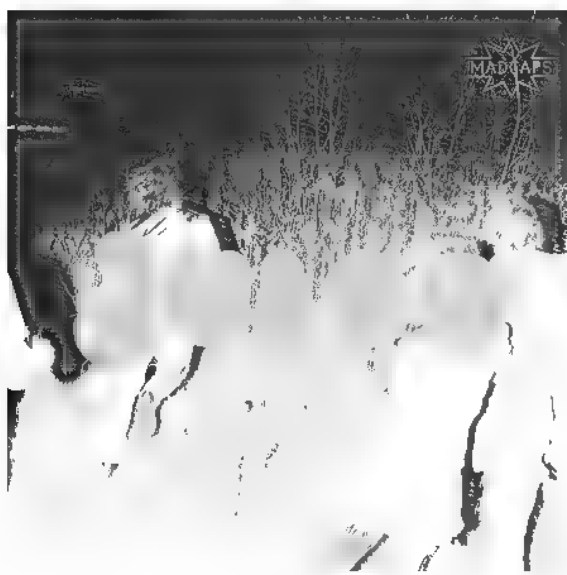
However, if you manage to get past this, *Sex, Love & Hip Hop Soul* is actually worth your time. Although the first track, "Formal Introduction," is essentially just an opportunity for the rapper to repeat his own name as many times as possible, the rest of the songs prove that the guy knows what he's doing. The smooth, R&B-infused choruses of "So Good" and "Take You

There" are easy to listen to, and the rapper's voice is effortless and confident in the spoken verses.

Overall, iLLvibe's flow is good; he makes use of samples and the talents of guest artists well, and there isn't a single lyric about how much he loves money or booty-shaking women to be found.

Instead, *Sex, Love & Hip Hop Soul* evokes ease and simplicity — this is music for lazily cruising around town with the top down during the summer months.

iLLvibe appears fairly pretentious at first, but he's anything but. Instead, he offers us a refreshingly honest representation of himself. He still comes off seeming pretty goofy image-wise, but compared with the listening experience he provides, this is a forgivable offence.



albumreview

Madcaps
Juice
Voxtone Records

GRANT CRAWFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Madcaps is a band that raises important questions, such as "before Nickelback made it, did they consider themselves indie?" Okay, let's not say things we can't take back; this band isn't as bad as Nickelback, and in fairness, Madcaps don't actually sound like Nickelback — they have horns. Still, something here is horribly wrong, and I can't help but wonder what perception Madcaps have of themselves to justify

their release of 46-and-a-half minutes of lifeless music into an already sonically saturated world.

"There are enough depressing things in this world," says Madcaps frontman Frédéric Pellerin. "We don't want to contribute to it." And bless his heart for his naïveté, but he should have learned long ago saying happy things doesn't necessarily make this world a happier place. If I wanted happy

endings, I would read children's books. Uplifting sentiments are borne of triumph over adversity, not a failure to acknowledge it. This album's failure comes from the band's complete lack of ability to challenge themselves; on each song of the album, the band works together in harmony to create something completely predictable.

It's not just the predictability, though — it's also the band's unwillingness or inability to offend anyone that has every single track on *Juice* sounding the same. Madcaps should know that creativity comes from setting out to do something in earnest, not in trying to please people. Because in trying to cater to everyone, the Madcaps have failed to learn that nothing is more depressing than listening to such uninspired and unimaginative music.



albumreview

Old Man Luedecke
My Hands are on Fire and other Love Songs
Black Hen Music

LANCE MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Music doesn't need to tell a story in the traditional sense. Musicians can accomplish so much with a simple change of a chord. The instrumental aspect may be more universally appealing than lyrics, but the latter allows people to connect to a singer's personal story.

My Hands are on Fire and other

Love Songs is Old Man Luedecke's third album, and his most complete record to date. Although Luedecke's banjo is very much the star of the show, the album sounds much more diverse with the addition of drums, and fiddle and mandolin.

It may be a roots album, but don't

let that keep you from being surprised by his soaring voice and his contemporary lyrics. He tells you right in the title that these are love songs. From his tender lyrics and campfire voice, you can understand that he sings about this emotion because it's the one worth living for.

Old Man Luedecke, I'm sure, can appreciate music that doesn't tell a literal story, but from his unusual name choice (he's actually quite young), one can understand that he has enough great memories to last a lifetime. His songs are catchy and there's energy to the rhythm, but the songs sing the truth. In "Foreign Tongue" he sings, "sometimes silence is the same as lying." Clearly, Luedecke is wise beyond his age.

FLOP CULTURE

Women with breasts have really come under fire this year. First, the Australian government banned women with small breasts from appearing in pornographic features — which were alleged to appeal to a pedophilic crowd. Now, Disney is telling women with *fake* breasts that they need not apply for their latest installment in the ever-popular *Pirates of Caribbean* series, which is set to debut May 2011.

Disney even warns aspiring actresses who think they can sneak their plastic double Ds in without being noticed that there will be a "show and tell" day — which makes me look forward to film's credit sequence, where they will surely have to list at least a few employees as "breast inspectors." Truly, we live in a golden era of employment where such rich opportunities for work are available and, in fact, encouraged by the people responsible for movies like

Mulan and *Pocahontas*. But things are changing down at Disney, and a zero-tolerance policy was apparently necessary in order to keep the film's aesthetic more authentic to the 18th-century setting.

"In the last movie, there were enhanced breasts to give that 18th-century whorish look [...] but times are changing, and the audience can spot false breasts," a former casting agent told the *New York Post*.

Indeed, the times are a changing. Breast discrimination is at an all-time high, and worst of all is the dangerous precedent that Disney is setting for female entertainers. As long as a woman's breasts are suspiciously large, regardless of whether or not her breasts are natural or not, she will be forced to take part in this humiliating ritual, in what I'm now imagining as a room full of men in white lab coats, holding clipboards, rating each actress in terms of size, jiggle, bounce, and physical appearance, among other important factors — essentially the test Michael Bay uses every time he casts an actress in one of his movies.

Also worth noting is that resident small-breasted, former *Pirates of the*

Caribbean co-star Keira Knightley has been replaced with the more well-endowed Penelope Cruz as Captain Jack Sparrow's love interest for the fourth installment in the series. While this is likely coincidental since Knightley announced she'd be leaving the series some time ago, the truth is that most 12-year-old girls have bigger breasts than Knightley's.

It does seem strange, though, for a company that's always been about enhancing the film experience — though mostly through digital effects — would turn their back on harmless enhancing of certain female body parts. It's a double standard, really. Maybe you can't fault Bill Nighy for not having the requisite tentacles to play Davy Jones, but you have to admit, Disney would save some money on digital effects if the actors came with the necessary assets.

EVAN MUDRYK

Flop Culture is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits shake their literary fists at ridiculous events or celebrities deserving of an inky bitch-slap.

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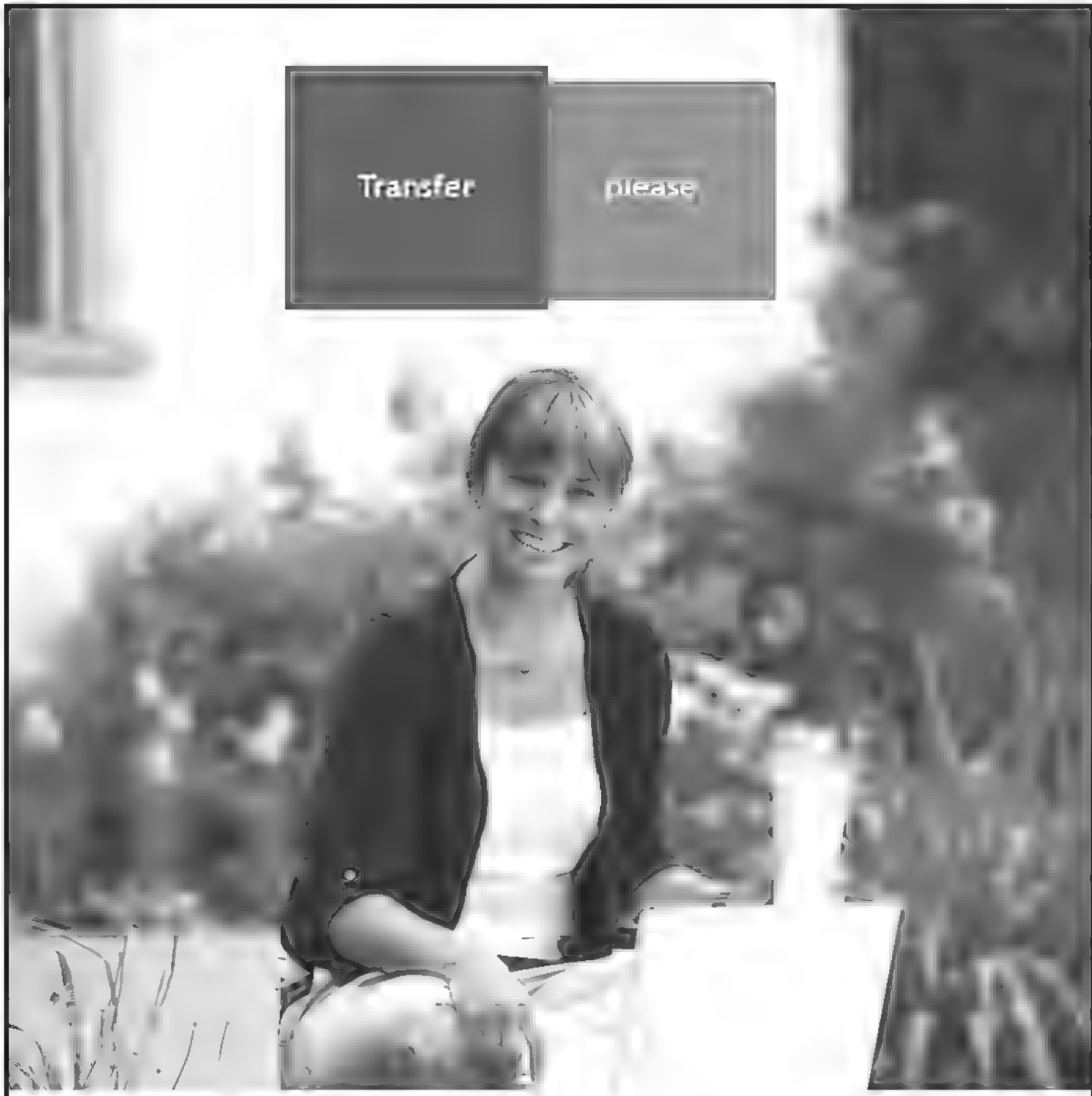
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91

81

BEARS' BAKER NAMED TO CIS ALL-ROOKIE TEAM



FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Go den Bear starting guard Jordan Baker was named to the CIS A -Freshmen team this past week as part of the men's basketball Fina 8 in Ottawa.

Baker, the Canada West rookie of the year, led the Bears 13.7 points per game and 9.1 rebounds per game. In his first season in the Green and Gold, Baker helped guide Alberta to a 10-10 regular season record and a playoff berth.

Huskies capture CIS men's basketball title

Saskatchewan downs UBC to claim school's first men's basketball championship

RIZWAAN ZAHID
The Charlantan (Carleton)

OTTAWA (CUP) —Saskatchewan may not be synonymous with basketball, but the Saskatchewan Huskies made history this past Sunday when they became this year's CIS basketball champions, winning the first men's basketball national title since the school's inception in 1907.

A team composed primarily of Saskatchewan natives, the Huskies to came away with a 91-81 win over fellow Canada West school UBC in the championship final at Scotiabank Place in the nation's capital.

Saskatchewan previously beat UBC in the conference semifinals, and they did it again in a game that had even more at stake.

Both teams were defence-minded in the early going, aiming to stop the opposition from getting open shots. UBC jumped to an early 12-4 lead, thanks in large part to a balance of scoring, including Kamar Burke, who hit three field goals in the opening quarter. CIS Player of the Year Josh Whyte wasn't able to hit his shots as easily for UBC, as he struggled in the early going.

A key 11-0 run by the Huskies, however, allowed the team to take the lead and finish the first quarter ahead, 20-16. In the second, the Huskies began to dominate, particularly with Canada West leading scorer Showron Glover getting to the free-throw line. He finished the half with 15 points, six of which came from the charity stripe.

UBC wasn't able to select their shots, and were forced into taking tough ones. The T-Birds were outscored 25-15 in the second quarter and entered the half with no momentum, down 45-31.

The second half continued the same way with the Huskies limiting turnovers, while using solid defence to force the UBC players out of rhythm. However, the game was far from over as UBC's Whyte made a few quick baskets to keep the Thunderbirds within 10 at the end of the third.



JON ROE/THE GAUNTLET

T-BIRD TOPPLERS The Huskies claimed their first men's basketball national title Sunday in Ottawa.

Turnovers, however, piled up at pivotal times with UBC, at one point down by six late in the game, being stripped by Glover, who went in for the easy deuce. A few possessions later, Troy Gottselig made a similar steal and threw it down with authority. That extended the lead from six to eight and sealed the Huskies' victory.

Despite letting the lead slip in each game, Huskies head coach Greg Jockims said he believed it was the quality of the opposition that let the leads dwindle.

"When you're playing good teams, they're really going to push hard at the late part of the games," said the former Huskies player turned

coach. "The other team is going to go on a bit of a run with reckless aggressiveness."

At a school where hockey and football are king, the win was huge for basketball in the wheat province.

"This is big. It means a lot. I'm coming from California, and I'm bringing this California game to Saskatchewan and it's spreading. As a team, we learn together, and that's the way you have to learn — together," Glover explained.

Basketball is alive and well in Saskatchewan, as the Huskies trek back to Saskatoon with the championship trophy in hand, fresh off the program's biggest of wins.

Track star Schneck honoured with CIS Community Service Award

NATHAN LIEWICKI
Sports Staff

Recently awarded the women's CIS Student-Athlete Community Service Award at the national indoor track and field championships, fourth-year pentathlete Amanda Schneck is a diligent volunteer who excels both on the track and in the classroom.

For the Pandas captain, the 2010 track season was one she won't soon forget. In addition to receiving the national service award, Schneck set a new school pentathlon record at a meet in Regina and captured gold in the event at the Canada West Championship back in February at the Butterdome. She would go on to finish sixth at nationals.

When asked what the highlight of her year was, the two-time CIS Academic All-Canadian felt that winning gold in front of the Butterdome crowd topped everything.

"Coming into that meet, I felt there was a lot of pressure, because everyone was expecting me to do well. Fortunately, it fell into place for my favour. It was also a cool feeling standing at the start line of my hurdles race and hearing everyone shout 'Go Schneck!'"

Even though she has excelled as a pentathlete, her selection as the recipient of the CIS service award reflects the tireless amount of time and effort the fourth-year material engineering student puts into extra curricular activities.

Schneck is the vice-president of the



PETE YEE

SUPER SCHNECK Pentathlete Amanda Schneck was honoured by CIS for her work in the community.

University's Student Athletics board, an associate vice-president of the Engineering Students' Society board, and a contributor to the monthly engineering newsletter, the *Bridge*.

On top of her involvement with various university bodies, Schneck maintains an impressive

GPA and is involved with the annual engineering head-shave event for cancer which she participated in two years ago.

"I found that I liked trying to get students involved in things and planning events. The head shave is lots of work, but when you see it

all come together and give that cheque to the Alberta Cancer Foundation, it's very gratifying," she explained.

So how is she able to balance everything that's on her plate? Interestingly enough, by taking on multiple projects all at once.

"I find the busier I am, the more I focus, because my time is more valuable. When I commit myself to a class, a training session, or a two-hour period to do work, I'm very focused," Schneck affirmed.

Her decision to pursue a biomedical specialization for her degree also showcases the unique aspirations she has once her university days are over.

Despite her career expectations, Schneck maintains that, in the future, she would like the opportunity to coach young tracksters.

"Track and field coaches are under-appreciated, and I have a lot of respect for the coaches I've had," Schneck noted. "I think I could use my experiences to teach others, and I think it could be almost as rewarding an experience to coach."

A standout on the Alberta track and field team, Schneck's achievements and involvement both on and off the track are a testament to the long hours of work, training, and volunteering she has put in over the last four years.

"The thing I would like people to take as inspiration from me is that hard work does pay off when you really put in the time and focus on something you want."

Rookie goaltender Yonkman ready to carry Bears into national tournament

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

If the Golden Bears hockey squad is going to return from the upcoming national tournament as University Cup champions, they'll be relying heavily on rookie goaltender Travis Yonkman. The laid-back Saskatoon-native has made the most of his debut season, elevating himself to the role of number-one netminder.

After four seasons in the Western Hockey League with the Swift Current Broncos, the 21-year-old decided to pick up his pads and head to Alberta to continue his hockey career.

"I had a few places in mind and I checked out a few of them, and here is one of the places I really wanted to check out just knowing the other places around the league — how they treat you and the school as well," Yonkman said.

Having grown up in Saskatoon, Yonkman grew up with many of the current players on the Saskatchewan Huskies. Despite having no shortage of connections to the Huskies program through the many Saskatoon-born players on the Sled Dog's roster, Yonkman opted instead for the Golden Bears.

"It was hard going away from Saskatchewan where I'm friends with three-quarters of the guys [on the Huskies]. But when you look at the big picture, you're going to meet 20 other new guys who you're going to get along with great. It's a different city, and from everyone that's been here, lived here, or played here in the Western League, they've loved it, so I thought I'd give it a shot."

Yonkman spent the entirety of the regular season splitting time with Bears' second-year goaltender Real Cyr, something that proved very successful for the team. Heading into the postseason, however, Yonkman was named the number-one goalie for the postseason.

"It shows the confidence level in myself from the coaches is there, and



PETE YEE

MASKED MAN Travis Yonkman (left) has taken over as the Bears' starter.

the players have responded well to that. It seems they have a lot of confidence in me as well."

Despite the fact that both Yonkman and Cyr have wanted the keys to Alberta's goaltending fortunes all season long, Cyr has been the ultimate team player and mentor for Yonkman, even after his counterpart took over the number-one job.

"I knew him a little bit growing up. We trained at the same centre in Saskatoon," Yonkman said of Cyr. "Throughout this year, I have to say he's been one of my best friends on the team. We sit beside each other in the dressing room, we've never got into any arguments, and we're always trying to help each other out."

For Bears assistant coach Ted Poplawski, who won two national championships with Alberta in goal, the two goaltenders have worked exceptionally well together all season long.

"It's been one of the best relationships I've seen between two goalies. I think they've pushed each other, and been the best supporters. They've been roomies all year, and they both want to play, but when the other guy is in, the other is the biggest supporter. It's been a very good relationship between the two goalies," Poplawski said.

One of the team's most fun-loving characters, Yonkman's personality has suited him well through the postseason when the pressure is elevated, and has been a key to his success all season long.

"When it's out on the ice, it's all business. The more stress you put on yourself, the worse you're going to play, so I just try and keep things easygoing, and stay in the same routine. Just being loose and having fun out there is a big part of it, and it's been working," Yonkman said.

Heading into a tournament that essentially comes down to three must-win scenarios, a relaxed goalie is among the most important elements to have on your side.

"His attitude makes him a very strong goalie. Grant Fuhr had the same attitude — a goal would go in and he would think 'no big deal'," Poplawski said.

For Yonkman, the tournament format of the national championship will be something he hasn't seen since his days playing midget hockey in Saskatoon.

"It's been five years since I've been in a tournament, but then again, it's just like playoffs where you play three games in four days," Yonkman explained. "Just taking it one game at a time might be the hardest part."

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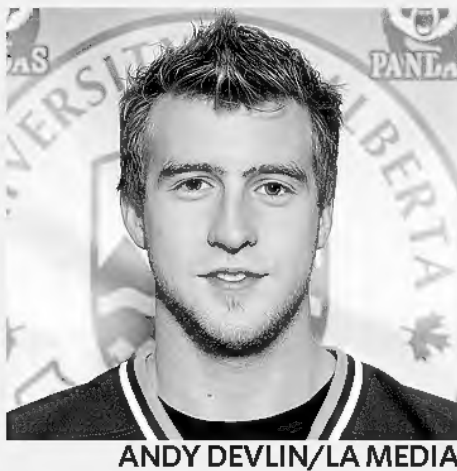
The Gateway has continuing coverage of the men's hockey nationals from Thunder Bay starting tomorrow online, and in Thursday's issue.

Daily tournament recaps start tomorrow online, and will continue through Championship Sunday.

There will also be exclusive audio content online, and you can follow Sports Editor Evan Daum on Twitter (evandaum) for up to the minute coverage.

careerrecap

TRAVIS YONKMAN



ANDY DEVLIN/LA MEDIA

Goaltender
Eligibility Year: 1
6-1, 183 lbs.
04/17/1988
Saskatoon, SK
Open Studies

- Swift Current's starting goaltender his final two seasons in the WHL
- Recorded his first regular season win as a Golden Bear in a 9-2 win over Calgary on October 10, 2009
- Picked up his first CIS shutout on November 14 in a 4-0 win over Lethbridge

REGULAR SEASON STATS

Season	Team	League	GP	MIN	GA	SO	GAA	W	L	T	SVS	PCT
2005/06	Swift Current Broncos	WHL	12	529	39	0	4.42	1	6	1	239	.860
2006/07	Swift Current Broncos	WHL	30	1415	79	2	3.35	12	9	2	661	.893
2007/08	Swift Current Broncos	OHL	57	3301	147	3	2.67	31	19	6	1472	.909
2008/09	Swift Current Broncos	OHL	48	2572	125	2	2.92	26	15	1	1157	.902
2009/10	U of A	CWUAA	14	847	37	1	2.63	12	2	0	377	.910

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Online broadcasting pivotal to CIS visibility

League needs to keep expanding Internet broadcasting to increase publicity



EVAN
DAUM

Sports
Commentary

In a growing age of watching television online, CIS schools are tapping into the vast possibilities the Internet provides for getting their product out.

While big-time college sports south of the 49th parallel live and die by their respective television deals with big networks, a similar model for success is a far-fetched, unrealistic one here in the true north, strong and free.

Aspiring to be a staple on TSN or The Score is a distant dream for CIS athletics, and while it would be tremendous to see a CIS football marathon on television every Saturday afternoon in the fall, it's not happening anytime soon.

That doesn't mean you can't get your CIS fix, however, as schools across this country are embracing the Internet as a way to get their product to their hardcore fans, with the hopes that, eventually, significant impressions can be made on the casual sports fan.

It would be tremendous to be at the level where TSN was knocking at their door with a lucrative TV deal, and while we've seen TSN get its hands back in the CIS cookie jar in recent years — occasional CIS football, including the Vanier Cup, as well as the men's basketball Final 8 — the answer for CIS athletics coverage to go to the next level lies with the Internet.

Streaming Sports Network has given

CIS athletics a way to get their product on the web in a relatively inexpensive, efficient, and professional manner.

With schools across Canada starting to fully embrace online audio and, more importantly, video broadcasting as a way to promote and showcase their product to the people that care most, a step in the right direction is being made by athletic departments at most CIS schools.

As SSN spreads its wings with more schools coming on board to broadcast their games, the coverage and opportunities to watch CIS athletics will only increase.

It's long been debated around water coolers in athletics offices across this country just how to bring our nation's varsity product to the mainstream sports fan. CIS hockey, for example, has long been called hockey's best-kept secret by not only the players and coaches at the CIS level, but also by hockey higher-ups within NHL management. The fact that CIS hockey remains an unknown entity to many mainstream hockey fans persists, but raises an important question as to why this is the case.

The question has always arisen with regards to what comes first: coverage of CIS athletics and then interest, or

interest and then coverage?

It's a tricky one to answer, but to a certain extent, you can't have interest without coverage. If you don't sell your product yourself and showcase it for the average sports fan, someone on the outside isn't just going to jump in and find it.

It's hard to imagine a world without being able to see your favourite professional team play either on TV or online, but until recently, CIS athletics have, for the most part, been stuck in the broadcasting dark ages.

With hit-or-miss coverage from school to school as far as who broadcasted and who didn't, watching your school play online was no easy task. There remains work to be done in that regard, but progress is being made nonetheless.

As SSN spreads its wings with more schools coming on board to broadcast their games, the coverage and opportunities to watch CIS athletics will only increase.

Providing an opportunity for not only the die-hard fans, but also the casual sports fan to see games online is the first step for CIS athletics to move from a secret among the most dedicated fans within their respective sports, to something the everyday fan would tune into.

The day may come, especially with sports networks' ongoing pursuit of more niche markets (The Score seems to like that poker niche a little too much), that CIS athletics finds a more consistent home on TV. But until then, it seems the Internet provides the best opportunity for CIS coverage to go to the next level — and just maybe the interest will come with it.

Boxing has been knocked out of mainstream

Mixed Martial Arts has pushed pugilism to the point of sporting irrelevance



BREN
CARGILL

Sports
Commentary

Boxing has been among the world's most competitive sports for thousands of years, and for the better part of the 1900s, it was arguably the biggest sport in North America.

The excitement of a huge prize fight in the heavyweight division was unrivalled for decades, with the likes of Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, George Chuvalo, Evander Holyfield, "Iron" Mike Tyson, and Lennox Lewis serving as a select few in a long line of famous fighters who became household names. These were the athletes that made millions of dollars and drew massive audiences for years when the sport was at its peak. Then, on June 8, 2002, the very steep downward spiral of boxing began when, in what was supposed to be one of the greatest fights of all time, Lennox Lewis pummeled Mike Tyson and scored an eighth-round knock out victory over the a man many consider to be the greatest of all time.

This was the last grand heavyweight prize fight that drew the attention of not only the avid boxing fan, but also the average sports fan. The heavyweight division has proceeded to crumble ever since as the division's current stars, Vitali and Wladimir

Klitschko, have failed to capture the imaginations of sports fans in the same way that their predecessors did.

The "super-fight" that, once upon a time, would pit best on best has completely disappeared from the sport. While there are still excellent fights at the lower weight classes, these smaller weight divisions just don't hold the same cachet as their heavier counterparts. All this, however, isn't to say that the sport didn't have a chance to repair itself.

Boxing had its opportunity to return to relevance on the sporting scene this past year with the chance to have Manny Pacquiao take on Floyd "Money" Mayweather in Las Vegas in what would've been the first matchup between the sports finest in years.

This was the match that had the hope, and potentially the power to save the sport of boxing, but it went up in flames after Mayweather demanded that Pacquiao undergo Olympic-style random blood tests, which Pacquiao refused citing that he believed it would weaken him physically if it happened within 30 days of the bout.

At the end of the day, because the disagreement could not be mediated — even by the retired judge hired to arbitrate the situation — Mayweather came off as scared of the man many consider the best in the world. On the other side, suspicion fell on Pacquiao for refusing the test, leading some to think that the best boxer of the day could indeed be a drug cheat for refusing to undergo the testing.

With boxing's descent into mediocrity after that 2002 contest, fans of

fighting were looking long and hard for a better product. They were searching for something with stars, grand productions, violence, and anticipation all rolled into one like boxing used to be. Out from the shadows stepped Mixed Martial Arts.

The rise of companies like Ultimate Fighting Championship and Strikeforce came in to fill the void. There is no better example of the type of entertainment that professional boxing used to offer than Dana White's UFC outfit, as they manage to turn many of their fighters at all weight classes into stars.

Hosting grandiose pay-per-view broadcasts and events, presenting an even more graphic form of violence (although some believe that it's actually safer than boxing because of the multiple concussions and long lasting effects sustained in boxing), and adding the fact that no one does anticipation better than UFC, fans of violent athletic action have fallen in love with MMA.

With the necessity of a big draw, about once a year, UFC has that "super-fight" that draws the average sports fan in along with the fanatics. While I'm not a fan of MMA, I can't deny that they do a phenomenal job marketing and producing a great product every year, and have clearly supplanted boxing as the predominant fighting sport on the planet.

While amateur boxing still has its place in the Olympics and other events, the professional version of the sport is on life support and is fading fast with MMA stepping into fill the void.



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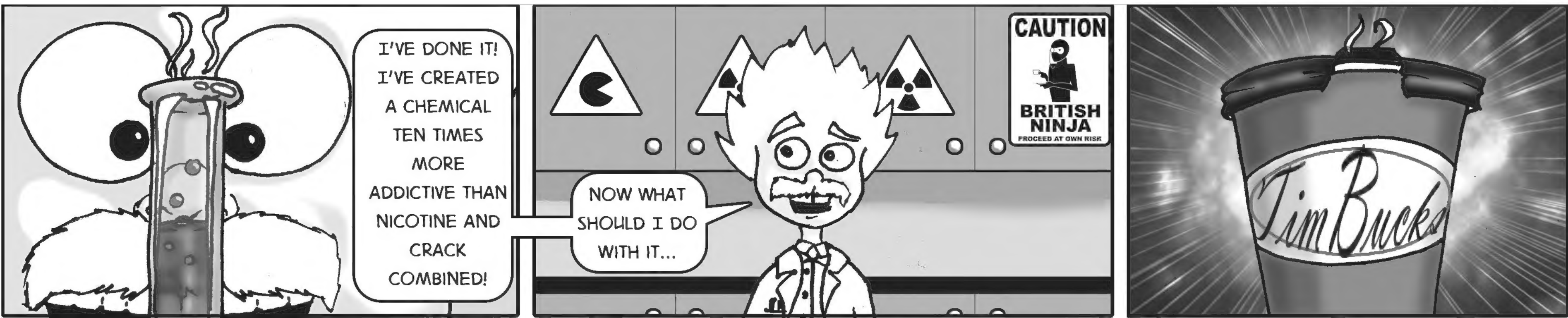
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SAM BROOKS
THE 'STACHE NDP leader Jack Layton shook hands with U of A student Chris White at the Wild Earth Cafe March 20.

crossword

Acts of God
The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at www.thegatewayonline.ca
by Travis Hnidan

Across
1. Nirvana contemporary
4. Elevated pasture
7. Congregation rows
11. Gram-negative, as a result
15. Corn lily genus
16. 1975 Fleetwood Mac song
17. NYSE systems
18. Period period
19. IRS ID
20. 52 Down, example
21. Old Dutch surname prepositions
22. B.Sc. helpers
24. Make out
25. CNN spinoff
26. Undecided
30. Straight edges
32. Football game cheer
33. Killer mammal
34. "____ sec!"
35. 16 Across, 60 Across, 20 Down or 26 Down
41. Pirate Park
42. Couple
43. Adolf counterpart, briefly
44. To do with the back
47. The Rape of Europa painter
48. Innsbruck hrs.
49. Printemps follower
50. Actress Kerr, for short
52. Holy water receptacle
53. Women's zine
55. ____-Wan, or Ben
58. Southeast Asian capital
59. Friend, in Bruxelles, maybe
60. 1975 Bob Dylan song
62. Place quotations inside a quotation
63. Hopeless ones
64. C7H5O6N3 isomers
65. Epic of Ba'al appointee

Down
1. Fundraising portmanteau
2. Without music
3. Organ allocation site
4. KO headquarters
5. Pacific wreaths
6. WHMIS page
7. Quay
8. Pardon
9. "The _____ of our discontent"
10. Belts
12. Some UN members
13. Sort of, suffix
14. Camp, sometimes
20. 1998 Prozzäk song
23. Up
26. 1996 Bruce Campbell made-for-TV movie
27. Delphi inhabitant
28. Harmonic circuit
29. Zenith opposite
31. Ignoring sounds
36. FedEx competitor
37. Chlor or sulf suffix
38. Stout fastener
39. Never, with not
40. Least neat
44. Transfer, as wine
45. Popular manga romantic comedy
46. Oppose
51. Atomic structure physicist
52. Information
54. Yankee rivals
56. Support
57. 60 Across in October 1978
58. Ancient beer volume
61. Ewe mate
66. Replay, as a stroke

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ONE MORE THING

Gee, I almost forgot what I came here to ask you.

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